Mitsurou Kubo

No. 5

No.
5
Again!!

contents

Chapter 42 Misunderstanding × Misunderstanding 003

Chapter 43 Rooftop Rendezvous 021

Chapter 44 Second Do-Over 037

Chapter 45 Give Me Love 053

Chapter 46 Dance! Sexual Relations! 071

Chapter 47 Check Out Who's Checking In 089

Chapter 50 Our Dear, Glorious Ouendan! 143

Chapter 51 The Go Get 'Em Cheer 161

Chapter 52 Victory Dance! 177

42. MISUNDERSTANDING × MISUNDERSTANDING

IMA-MURA.
DID YOU REALLY COME FROM THREE YEARS IN THE FUTURE?
DO YOU KNOW EVERY-THING THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
ARE WE GOING TO LOSE THE PRACTICE GAME BECAUSE OF ME?
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE OUENDAN AFTER I DROP OUT?
TELL ME!

SO, WHAT HAP-PENED WAS...
OUENDAN
...
...AND THAT'S KIND OF HOW WE CAME HERE FROM THREE YEARS IN THE FUTURE, MENTALLY SPEAKING. ANYWAY...
...
BUH?
WUH?
...SO, WHEN I FELL DOWN THE STAIRS EARLIER, I ENDED UP BACK IN THE WORLD WE CAME FROM...
...AND YOU'RE KIND OF... DIFFERENT, THREE YEARS FROM NOW, CAPTAIN. LIKE...

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT CURIOSITY?!
DON'T FALL ASLEEP ON ME!
SNOOZE
BAM!!

DO I REALLY END UP LIKE YOU SAID?
むかぁ
GRRRR
MY BRAIN JUST WON'T ACCEPT WHAT IT CAN'T UNDERSTAND!
RUB
RUB
OH, SORRY ...

IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING TO STOP IT, YOU'RE GOING TO END UP CYNICAL AND PERMANENTLY TRAUMATIZED!
LET ME SUM IT UP FOR YOU! YOU CAUSE NOTHING BUT PROBLEMS FOR EVERYONE AROUND YOU, AND IT'S ALL GOING TO END IN ONE BIG SCREW-UP! YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE THE GUILT, SO YOU'LL HAVE A BREAKDOWN AND DROP OUT OF SCHOOL!
BAM!!!

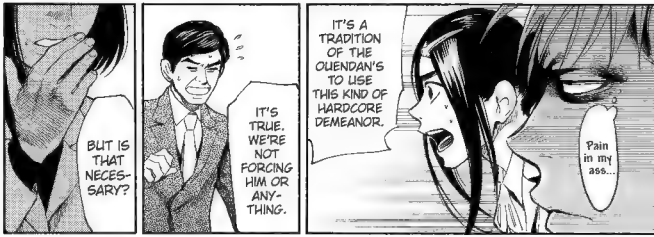
I'LL BE-COME ...
CYNI-CAL?
すこーん
GLOOM
THAT'S HARD TO IMAGINE.
I KNOW ...
SO, WHAT SHOULD WE DO, IMA-MURA ?
IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ANYONE NEEDS THE OUENDAN AT THE PRACTICE GAME.
ビキ...
OUR TEAM LOSING BE-CAUSE THE OUENDAN CHEERED THEM ON IS TOTALLY UNACCEPT-ABLE!
BUT WE ALREADY KNOW IT'S YOUR FAULT THEY LOSE.
ULP ...
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GO CHEER FOR THEM, YOU WON'T HAVE A BREAKDOWN, AND EVERYTHING WILL TURN OUT FINE, RIGHT?
WHO CARES, ANYWAY? THERE'LL BE MORE GAMES TO CHEER AT. SO...

...JUST GIVE UP AND–
BONK
OW!
YOU IDIOT!
THAT WOULDN'T GET AT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM, EVEN IF WE DID WIN.
THEN HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE GET AT THE ROOT OF IT?
UHH ...
WELL... WE'LL COME UP WITH SOMETHING!

HEY!
IS SOMEONE IN HERE?
THIS ROOM'S OFF-LIMITS.
KITAJIMA SENSEI ...
BWAH?! WAIT... YOU'RE IMAMURA, RIGHT?
WERE YOU IN THE OUENDAN?
YEAH ...
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! I TOTALLY FORGOT! YOU GOT HURT AND WERE IN THE HOSPITAL.
THAT'S WHY THIS ROOM WAS OFF-LIMITS.
I FORGOT!
RIIIIP

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE
KITAJIMA SENSEI!
NOW THAT IMAMURA'S BACK, WE CAN CLEAR UP THAT MISUNDERSTANDING, CAN'T WE?
PLEASE, LET US GET BACK TO PRACTICE!
RIGHT.
FIRST, WE'LL HAVE TO ASK THE PRINCIPAL.
I SEE...
SO, THERE WAS NO BULLYING OR HAZING AT THE OUENDAN'S BOOT CAMP...
...AND YOU JUST HAPPENED TO FALL DOWN THE STAIRS?
IS THAT REALLY ALL THERE IS TO IT?
YEAH. IS THAT A PROBLEM?
IT WAS ALL SO VERY WHOLESOME.
WE WERE JUST PRACTICING OUR CHEERS, SIR.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU.
YOU LOOK MORE LIKE SOME PUNK THAN A MEMBER OF OUR OUENDAN.
WHY'D YOU DO THAT TO YOUR HAIR? AND WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?
WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE, BOY?
I MAKE SUCH A BAD IMPRESSION...
GUH...


BUT IS THAT NECESSARY?
IT'S TRUE. WE'RE NOT FORCING HIM OR ANYTHING.
IT'S A TRADITION OF THE OUENDAN'S TO USE THIS KIND OF HARDCORE DEMEANOR.
Pain in my ass...

AS THINGS STAND NOW,
WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY ALLOW YOU TO LEAD THE CHEERS AT THE SPRING PRACTICE GAME.
ISN'T IT A BIT SELF-RIGHTEOUS OF YOU TO CHEER FOR NO ONE'S SAKE BUT YOUR OWN?
I'M TOLD THAT THE OTHER ATHLETIC CLUBS AREN'T EXACTLY FOND OF YOURS.
GRRR

YOU'RE FULL OF TALK ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY, BUT THE TRUTH IS, YOU JUST DON'T TRUST ME, DO YOU?!
THE QUENDAN IS ABOUT–
GASP
ガタ
CLATTER
IS–
IS THIS ...
...PART OF WHAT RUINS US?
?!
...THE CAPTAIN'S NOT SURE OF HERSELF ANYMORE?!
WAIT...
AND RIGHT AFTER I TOLD HER ABOUT HER FUTURE?!
CAPTAIN! GET IT TOGETHER!
HEY!
ぐいっ
ぐいっ
ぐいっ

WELL...
UMM...
UH-
GASP
...
WE'LL GET OUR ACT TOGETHER.
PLEASE ALLOW US TO CONTINUE THE OUEN-DAN.
BOW
MR. PRINCI-PAL?!
IN THAT CASE, YOU CAN CHEER AT THE PRACTICE GAME.
I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW YOU DO...
...SO EXPECT ME TO BE THERE.

YOU CAN COUNT ON US!
UH-OH.
SHE'S GOING FURTHER AND FURTHER OFF THE RAILS...
カン TAP
カン TATAP
カン TATAP
カン TATAP
カン TAP
CHAN-KUMA!

OKA!

SUGA!

THE OUENDAN...
...IS BACK IN BUSINESS.
WE ONLY HAVE THREE DAYS UNTIL THE SPRING PRACTICE GAME!
AND IT TURNS OUT THE PRINCIPAL HIMSELF IS GONNA BE THERE!
WAIT, REALLY?
SO, IN ORDER TO CLEAR THE OUENDAN'S NAME AND PROVE THAT WE AREN'T ABUSING OUR MEMBERS...

WE MUST WIN AT ANY COST!
YOU ARE TO CHEER AS THOUGH YOUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT!
UH-OH... GO...
ROOOAR

WE HAVE TO WIN, OR THERE'S NO POINT IN THE OUENDAN EVEN EXISTING...
IT'S WIN...
...OR DIE!
WE HAVE TO WIN.
HEY, WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH USAMI?
YEAH, THIS SEEMS BAD.
IT MUST BE ALL THE PRESSURE FROM HAVING TO GO ON HIATUS.

KNOWING THE FUTURE HAS DRIVEN HER A LITTLE NUTS, HASN'T IT?
YEP. REAL BAD.
I MEAN, IT MUST BE PRETTY DISTURBING TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE HEADED FOR A MENTAL BREAKDOWN, SO I GUESS IT MAKES SENSE.
THIS IS BAD.
?
OH! THAT REMINDS ME.
CAPTAIN, I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
WHAT?
FWIP

YOU KISSED IMAMURA MORE THAN ONCE WHEN HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
ARE YOU GUYS DATING?
I JUST-
N-NO!
I WAS WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TOOK TO WAKE HIM UP.
HUH?!
NOT A CHANCE!
WAVE WAVE
GRAAAH
GRAAAH
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

CHAN-KUMA'S GONE BER-SERK!
HE CAN'T BE STOPPED!
I CAME...
...'CAUSE KITAJIMA-SENSEI TOLD ME THE OUENDAN WASN'T ON HIATUS ANYMORE, BUT...
A-
ABE-TAMA?!
SE-SE-

NOOOOO!
HEY, EVERY-BODY!
トゥタタタ・・・
TUP TUP TUP. TUP...
NO ONE CAN SPREAD A RUMOR AS FAST AS ABETAMA.
THERE'S NO STOP-PING HER.
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE.

I HEARD SHE FORCED HERSELF ON THEIR NEW MEMBER!
FOR REAL ?
WAIT, THAT USAMI? THE OUENDAN'S CAP-TAIN?
WAAAAAGH
I HEARD THEY SCREW IN THE CLUB ROOM.
SHE MAY ACT TOUGH, BUT I GUESS SHE WAS REALLY STARVING FOR A MAN!
NO WAY!
WHAT ?!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

...OR ELSE YOU'LL REALLY HAVE A BREAK-DOWN.
I GUESS NOW YOU HAVE TO STOP GIVING A SHIT...
WELL ...

43. ROOFTOP RENDEZVOUS

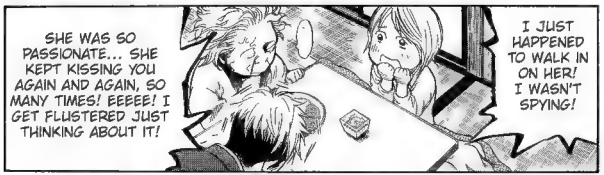
KIN-CHAN! TIME TO GET UP!
YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!
ガラ
SLIDE!!!

WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE. WHAT'S THE MATTER?
...
...
OH, HEY! YOU GOT RIGHT UP!
I'LL GET YOUR BREAKFAST READY.

I WAS JUST THINK-ING.
MOM ...
GRAND-MA...
IT'S REALLY NICE TO HAVE BREAKFAST TOGETHER LIKE THIS.

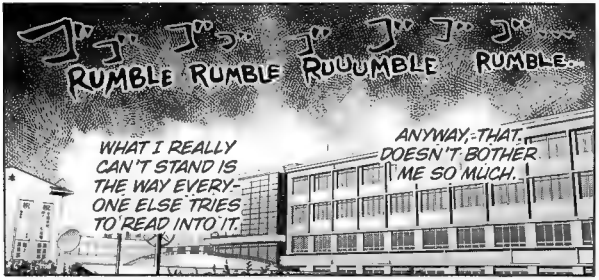
MAYBE THEY LET YOU OUT OF THE HOSPITAL TOO EARLY. YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE EVER SINCE YOU GOT HOME.
JUST GET ME MY BREAK-FAST.
I'VE GONE THREE YEARS BACK IN TIME TWICE, NOW...
BAM!!
...AND IT'S CHANGED MY PERSPECTIVE A LITTLE.
OH, BY THE WAY, KIN-CHAN.
WHAT ?

DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR CAPTAIN KISSING YOU WHILE YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL?


I JUST HAPPENED TO WALK IN ON HER! I WASN'T SPYING!
SHE WAS SO PASSIONATE... SHE KEPT KISSING YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN, SO MANY TIMES! EEEEE! I GET FLUSTERED JUST THINKING ABOUT IT!

SO?
SPARKLE
HOW ARE THINGS BETWEEN YOU AND THE CAPTAIN?
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
KIN-CHA-AAN!
I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO PRY! TEE HEE HEE!
LAY OFF!

BUT THE THOUGHT OF IT WON'T STOP LINGERING IN THE BACK OF MY MIND.
YEAH, SHE KISSED ME. SO WHAT?
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I LIKE HER NOW OR ANYTHING.
IT'S YOUR FAULT I HAVE TO DEAL WITH CRAP LIKE THIS!
STU-PID CAP-TAIN!
PAIN IN THE ASS!


ゴゴ ゴゴっ… ゴ ゴ… ゴ…
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUUUMBLE RUMBLE...
WHAT I REALLY CAN'T STAND IS THE WAY EVERY-ONE ELSE TRIES TO READ INTO IT.
ANYWAY, THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME SO MUCH.

TO THINK USAMI-SAN WOULD DO SUCH A THING! OH? YOU HAVEN'T HEARD?
SERIOUSLY, IT'S TRUE! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? ☆

...AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!
MAYBE THEY WERE SCREWING ALL ALONG!
NO WAY!
GOD!
FOR REAL?
WHOA!
EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT IT.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD HOW SHE FORCED HERSELF ON THE OUENDAN'S NEW MEMBER WHILE HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL?
BE SURE TO TELL THE OTHER GIRLS.
USAMI-SAN'S BEEN DOING IT WITH BOYS AT SCHOOL!

EVERYBODY! LISTEN!
GUGRAAAAAH!!!
USAMI-SAN'S RUINING THE OUENDAN'S REPUTATION!

SHUT UP!
THAT'S ALL JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING!

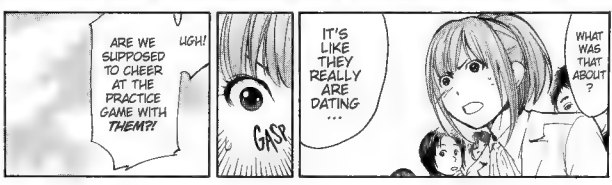
YOU'RE ADDING DETAILS AND SPREADING LIES, AREN'T YOU?!
TAKE THEM BACK!
ISN'T THIS YOUR FAULT FOR DOING SOMETHING THAT COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD IN THE FIRST PLACE?
I MEAN, IS IT NOT TRUE?
EVERYONE ALREADY THOUGHT YOU WERE USING THE OUENDAN TO HAVE YOUR PICK OF BOYS.
GRRR
PEEK
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?
UGRAAAH
?!
REEEE
REEEE
STOMP
STOMP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CAPTAIN? CUT IT OUT!
GRAB

HUH?
HMM?
OH!
SQUISH
EEEEEK!
WAAAAGH
EEEEEK
EWWWWW
HE'S GROPING HER CHEST?!
That's so dirty!
WHAT?
NO, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG! THAT'S NOT IT!
Y-
WHOA!
~NO, THIS ISN'T
THEY'RE A THING! I KNEW IT!

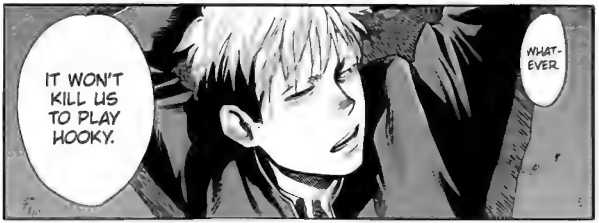
NOT EVERYONE IS JUST TRYING TO GET LAID ALL THE TIME!
YOU SICKOS! YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO WILD OVER A KISS OR A LITTLE BOOB TOUCH!
ROAR!!
I'M NOT LIKE YOU!

HEY!
REEE
LET'S GO.
The more you talk, the worse it'll get
REEE
DOESN'T BEING MIS-UNDER-STOOD LIKE THIS BOTHER YOU?!
WAAAGH
THIS IS YOUR FAULT!
WHAT THE HELL?!
THAT'S MEAN!
DID YOU GUYS HEAR THAT?!
GOD!
GASP

THEY JUST WANT SOMETHING TO GOSSIP ABOUT. THEY DON'T CARE WHAT THE TRUTH IS.
NO ONE WILL REMEMBER THIS IN THREE YEARS, ANYWAY. WORRYING ABOUT IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD.
OH.
RIGHT...


WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
IT'S LIKE THEY REALLY ARE DATING...
GASP
UGH!
ARE WE SUPPOSED TO CHEER AT THE PRACTICE GAME WITH THEM?!

IMA-MURA,
SHOULDN'T WE GO BACK? CLASS IS ABOUT TO START.


IT WON'T KILL US TO PLAY HOOKY.
WHAT-EVER.

...
WHY DON'T YOU LIE DOWN, TOO, CAP-TAIN?
I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF CUTTING CLASS TO HANG OUT ON THE ROOF.

FSSSSH

WOW ...
THIS IS SO NICE.
WHY DIDN'T I DO THIS BEFORE I WENT BACK IN TIME?

THREE YEARS FROM NOW,
SO MUCH OF THIS JUST DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.

I MEAN, IS THERE ANY POINT IN PUTTING YOURSELF THROUGH SO MUCH JUST TO CHEER WITH THE OUENDAN?
MAYBE YOU TAKE YOUR RESPONSI-BILITIES A LITTLE TOO SERIOUSLY, CAPTAIN.
YES.
I FIGURED YOU'D SAY THAT.

SO,
YOU'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BRING SOME LIFE BACK TO THE OUENDAN, RIGHT?
むくっ
WHAT?
I MEAN, OF COURSE ...
THIS ISN'T ANY FUN. NOT LIKE THIS.
?

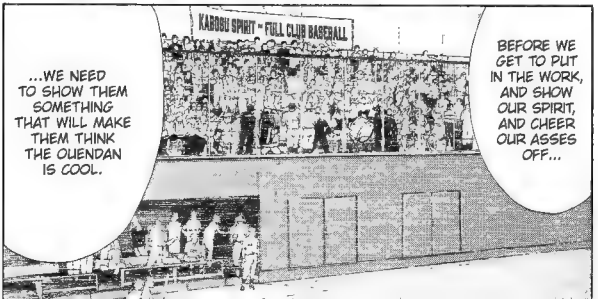
WHOA, WHAT'S WITH THE ROMANTIC ATMOSPHERE, YOU GUYS?
ASH!
FUJI-EDA ?!
UGGGH, I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM ALL THE GOSSIP ABOUT YOU TWO.
EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT'S UP WITH THE OUENDAN.
AND THEY KEEP ASKING ME WHAT THE CAPTAIN OR THE NEW GUY IS LIKE.
There they are!
I wonder what was going on with the Ouendan?
THERE'S NO ESCAPE. AND HERE MY WHOLE CLASS USED TO IGNORE ME.
GIGGLE GIGGLE
NO ONE CARED ABOUT THE OUENDAN UNTIL NOW.
BUT THIS SCANDAL HAS GOT EVERY-ONE PAYING ATTENTION. PRETTY IRONIC, IF YOU ASK ME.
TWITCH

I'VE FIGURED OUT HOW I CAN CHEER!
TURN
GASP
I'VE FOUND IT!
LET'S USE THIS.
NOW WE CAN REALLY LIVEN UP THE STANDS AT THE PRACTICE GAME.

44. SECOND DO-OVER

FIRST ...
...WE HAVE TO COME UP WITH A NEW WAY TO CHEER THAT'LL SHOW PEOPLE WHAT WE'RE ABOUT WITHIN THREE MINUTES.

THREE MINUTES?
WHAT?


KABOBU SPIRIT = FULL CLUB BASEBALL
BEFORE WE GET TO PUT IN THE WORK, AND SHOW OUR SPIRIT, AND CHEER OUR ASSES OFF...
...WE NEED TO SHOW THEM SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE THEM THINK THE OUENDAN IS COOL.

...WE'LL DO A CHEER THAT WILL HELP THEM BECOME FANS OF THE BASEBALL CLUB, TOO.
THEN, ONCE WE'VE GOTTEN THEM TO LIKE US...
THE OUENDAN IS SUPPOSED TO TIE THE GAME AND THE STANDS TOGETHER, BUT WE CAN'T DO THAT UNTIL WE HAVE PEOPLE'S TRUST, RIGHT?
gentler, more lovable ouendan.
NOW THEN ...
CAN YOU EVEN CALL THAT CHEERING?
I MEAN, OUR CHEERS ARE SUPPOSED TO MAKE THEM LIKE US! I'D NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF THAT...
BUT WHAT KIND OF CHEERING IS THAT?!

WHO KNOWS WHAT MAKES YOU SO COOL, CAPTAIN?
ME, THAT'S WHO.
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO BE YOUR PRODUCER.
K.O. POINT
IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME IMITATE THE CHEERLEADERS' ROUTINES...
...OR DO SOME HUMILIATING, FLIRTY DANCE AGAIN, THEN I REFUSE.
OH, NO.
NOTHING LIKE THAT.
ARGH!
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID, CAPTAIN?
BEFORE I FELL DOWN THE STAIRS?

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO PUT EVERYONE'S IDEAS TOGETHER AND MAKE SOMETHING REALLY COOL.
AND CHAN-KUMA WOULD PLAY A QUICK TAIKO BEAT.
LUCKY SUGA WAS GONNA THINK OF SOME NEW MOVES FOR US.
THERE'S NO HARM IN GOING OUTSIDE THE DICTATES OF TRADITION.
LET'S FIGURE OUT HOW WE CAN CHEER SO IT'LL REALLY SHOW YOU OFF.
GASP!!

IT'S TOO LATE, THOUGH.
EVERYONE ALREADY HATES US.
WHO'S GOING TO SUDDENLY DECIDE THEY LIKE US NOW?
IF THEY HATE US, THAT MEANS THEY'RE PAYING ATTENTION.
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN WITH THAT!
HAVE SOME... FUN?

WHATEVER.
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!
JUST GET EVERYONE TOGETHER AFTER SCHOOL SO WE CAN COME UP WITH A PLAN!
REEEEE
REEEEE
THESE TWO SEEM CLOSER THAN EVER, DON'T THEY?
IT'S TRUE...
TUP TUP TUP TUP
SOME-ONE JUST TOLD ME!
APPARENTLY, IMAMURA'S ALONE ON THE ROOF WITH THE OUENDAN'S CAPTAIN!
HEY, LIS-TEN!
CLASP
CAN WE WIN BY HAVING FUN?
THAT'S UP TO YOU.

SERIOUSLY?
CHATTER
FOR REAL?
CHATTER
DAMN!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WERE THE RUMORS TRUE, AFTER ALL?
THEY CUT CLASS TO HAVE A DATE ON THE ROOF?!

DON'T BE GROSS!
TREMBLE
I HEARD THEY WERE BANGING IN THE OUENDAN'S CLUB ROOM, BUT WHAT IF THEY'RE DOING IT ALL OVER THE SCHOOL? THAT'D BE SO WRONG!

THIS IS REALLY BAD!
WHY ARE YOU WHISPERING EQUATIONS TO YOURSELF?
HEY, REO!
SMACK
OW!

I MEAN, YOU LIKE IMAMURA, DON'T YOU, REO-CHAN?
Uh-oh.
HAVE YOU TOLD HIM? YOU HAVEN'T, HAVE YOU? THINGS ARE GOING TO KEEP ESCALATING BETWEEN THOSE TWO WHILE YOU DRAG YOUR HEELS! TRUST ME!
IMAMURA MAY TRY TO ACT ALL COOL, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, GUYS REALLY JUST WANT TO GET LAID!
WHATCHA TALKING ABOUT?

CHATTER...
HE'S HERE, GUYS!
CHATTER...
CHATTER...

WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
...
UH.
OH, OKAY.
THERE'S SOME STUFF I WANNA ASK YOU ABOUT THE PRACTICE GAME COMING UP.
HEY, SUZUKI!
BUMP
ドキ
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
そうかなの
...
しーーーん...
HUCCUSH
IF YOU'VE GOT A QUESTION FOR ME, SHOOT.
WHAT?
SNIFF
SNIFF
BUT NOW, THEY'RE ALL FULL OF MORBID CURIOSITY ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN ME AND THE CAPTAIN.
BEFORE THE DO-OVER, THESE ASSHOLES ACTED LIKE I DIDN'T EVEN EXIST.

HEY!
YOU GUYS! I'M SURE THERE ARE THINGS IWAMURA WOULD RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT!
HELL, THIS IS MY SECOND DO-OVER.
WHO CARES WHAT ANYONE THINKS?
TH-THAT'S RIGHT!
HE'S BEEN TAKING HIS ROLE IN THE OUENDAN VERY SERIOUSLY.
YOU GUYS DON'T HAVE TO DEFEND ME.
THE QUESTION IS HOW DO I TAKE THEIR MORBID CURIOSITY..
SO, EVERYBODY WANTS TO KNOW ALL THE DIRT ON ME AND THE CAPTAIN, HUH?
...AND BEND IT TO MY WILL?

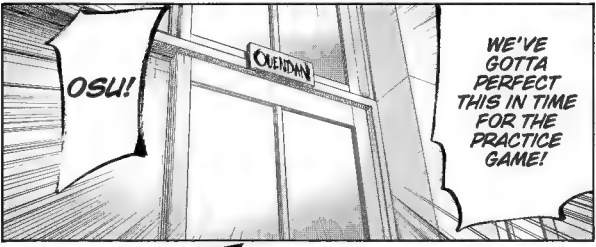
WELL, GET THIS-
IF WE CHEER AT THIS PRACTICE GAME, AND OUR TEAM WINS...
...SHE'S PROMISED THAT WE'LL DO IT.
WHAAAAAAAT?!
OOH!
THAT GOT A RESPONSE!
WHEN I HEARD THAT THE OUENDAN WOULD FALL APART IF IT DIDN'T GET SOME NEW MEMBERS,
I SAW MY CHANCE FOR SOME GOOD OLD-FASHIONED BLACKMAIL.
YOU KNOW HOW SHE IS.
THE ONLY CONDITION IS THAT WE CHEER FOR A GAME AND WIN IT.
...

IF YOU DON'T, I CAN'T HAVE SEX WITH THE CAPTAIN!
YOU HAVE TO WIN THE PRACTICE GAME!
R-
RIGHT...
DO YOU GET IT, SUZUKI?
THAT MEANS I'VE GOT A LOT RIDING ON HOW YOU PLAY.
REO!
WHAT MADE HER PASS OUT?!
THIS IS SO SHOCKING... I THOUGHT HE WAS PRETTY NICE...
SO THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY IMAMURA IS, HUH?
I HEARD HE'S BLACK-MAILING THE CAP-TAIN!
WHOA!
WHAT'S THE DEA- WITH THAT SHORT B-OND FIRST-YEAR?
I HEARD HE'S THE SON OF SOME TOKYO YAKUZA GANGSTER.
CHATTER
CHATTER
AND HIS ACCIDENT ON THE STAIRS WAS BECAUSE HE'D MADE SOME ENEMIES!
SCA- RY!
FOR REA-?!
I HEARD SHE PROMISED TO HAVE SEX WITH HIM IF WE WIN THE PRACTICE GAME.
SERIOUSLY? SO THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON!

THE OUENDAN'S GOTTEN WEIRD EVER SINCE THAT IMAMURA GUY SHOWED UP.
AND APPARENTLY, THEIR CAPTAIN IS THE ACTUAL VICTIM!
WHOA! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE ANYMORE ...
SCRIIK! SCRIIK!
A NEW WAY OF CHEER-ING?!
OUENDAN!
WHAT?

I KNEW YOU'D GET IT, OKA!
YOU MIGHT BE ON TO SOMETHING. I LIKE THIS IDEA OF MAKING OUR CHEERS INTO AN EASY-TO-DIGEST PERFORMANCE.
I CAN'T APPROVE OF THIS STUFF ABOUT MAKING USAMI STAND OUT, BUT ...
Well, it does sound sort of cool!
CHAN-KUMA, HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA SIT THERE SULKING? WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU.
GRRR
GRRR

Fuck!!
HE MUST BE CURSING IN ENGLISH AGAIN.


OSU!
OUENDAN
WE'VE GOTTA PERFECT THIS IN TIME FOR THE PRACTICE GAME!

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
DO IT AGAIN!
OSU!!
HMM?

QUESTIONS
RADIO CLUB
REO-CHAN?!
WHAT'S UP?
OH...
...SORRY.
GASP
HEY, REO-CHAN.
YOU'RE NOT GOING IN?
?

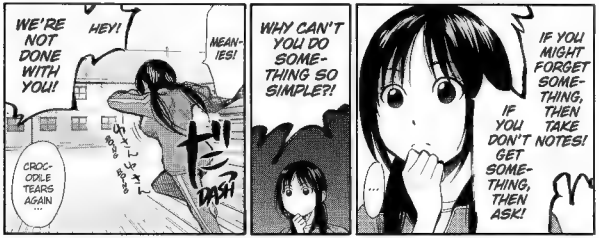
45.
GIVE ME LOVE

OLENDAN
REO-CHAN, WHAT'S UP? HEY!
ARE YOU GOING HOME AL-READY?
SHI-BATA! GET OVER HERE AND HELP US OUT!
SHI-BATA!

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, HERE WE COME!
KABOSU MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CLUB
KATTING
YEEEAH!
KATTING
ONE MORE PITCH!
YOU'RE UP, SUZUKI!
SHUP

Mhm, mhm.
YEP.
GOOD THING THAT KNEE OF YOURS HEALED UP SO FAST.
LOOKING GOOD, SUZUKI!
FWISH
THANKS, COACH.
?!
THINK YOU CAN BE OUR STARTING PITCHER AT THE PRACTICE GAME DAY AFTER TOMORROW?
MINEKO! YOU STILL HAVEN'T DONE IT?
DAMN! AN ACE IN YOUR FIRST YEAR, HUH?
WOOO
GOOD LUCK, SUZUKI!
YOU BETTER GIVE THIS GAME YOUR ALL IF WE'RE GONNA BEAT KABOKOKU!
I'D BE HONORED!
BOW!!!

SORRY! I MIS-UNDER-STOOD!
TEE HEE!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING OFF THE HOOK THAT EASILY!
HON-ESTLY, DO YOU EVEN LISTEN?
YOU'VE GOTTA WORK HARDER THAN THAT IF YOU'RE GONNA GET ANY BETTER!
YEAH, YOU'RE CAUSING PROB-LEMS FOR THE REST OF US MAN-AGERS!

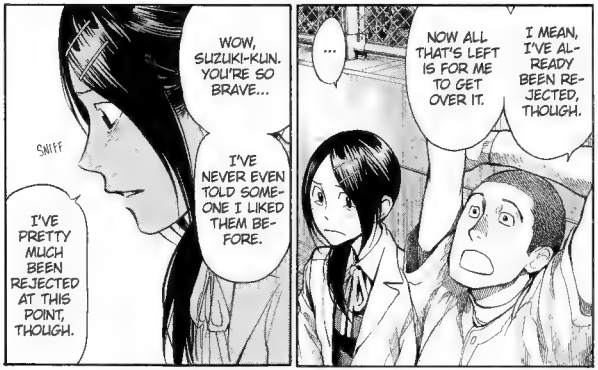

IF YOU MIGHT FORGET SOME-THING, THEN TAKE NOTES!
IF YOU DON'T GET SOME-THING, THEN ASK!
WHY CAN'T YOU DO SOME-THING SO SIMPLE?!
MEAN-IES!
HEY!
WE'RE NOT DONE WITH YOU!
DASH!
CROC-ODILE TEARS AGAIN ...

MI-MINE-
MINE-KO!
TUP
TUP
I'LL GO!
YOU GUYS GET BACK TO PRAC-TICE!
WAGAH
WAGAH
HUUUU ... UUUSH

I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN...
YEAH.
YOU'RE SO CUTE, MINEKO.
WHY DOES EVERY-BODY BULLY ME?
UH-HUH.
I SEE HOW HARD YOU WORK, MINEKO.
UNH... EVERY-ONE'S SO MEAN...
SNIF-FLE...
OH, CAP-TAIN... AH! WAIT.
REMEM-BER? WE AGREED NOT TO DO IT UNTIL AFTER THE GAME.
BUT I'M SO ANXIOUS, MINEKO. YOU CAN HELP ME.
BOING
CAP-TAIN! ♥
MINE-KOOO!
...
ROLL
WAAAAGH
WAAAAGH
SMACK

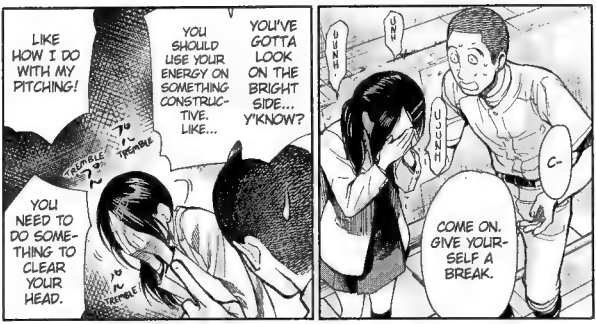
I WANT TO DIE...
HUH?
SHI-BATA ...
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

NO ...
I SEE ...
WOO!
KATTING
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE IT WORSE THAN I DO.
SO, WE'RE BOTH IN HOPELESS SITUATIONS, HUH?


WOW, SUZUKI-KUN. YOU'RE SO BRAVE...
I'VE NEVER EVEN TOLD SOMEONE I LIKED THEM BEFORE.
SNIFF
I'VE PRETTY MUCH BEEN REJECTED AT THIS POINT, THOUGH.
...
NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR ME TO GET OVER IT.
I MEAN, I'VE ALREADY BEEN REJECTED, THOUGH.

SO YOUR SITUATION ISN'T QUITE THE SAME AS MINE, SINCE I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING REALLY GOING ON BETWEEN HIM AND THE CAPTAIN.
I FEEL LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO MAKE HIMSELF SOUND BAD ON PURPOSE.
...SHE'S PROMISED THAT WE'LL DO IT.
SOMETHING SEEMED OFF ABOUT WHAT IMAMURA WAS SAYING.
I'M NOT SO SURE.

I KNOW I JUST NEED TO GET OVER IT.
I CAN TELL THAT HE'S NOT INTERESTED.
YEAH...
BUT STILL...
BUT I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO SMILE...
...WHEN I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS TERRIBLE, AND EVERYONE ELSE IS HAVING FUN.
I JUST WANT THESE FEELINGS TO GO AWAY ALREADY.


C-
COME ON. GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK.
UH
UHNH
UUNH
YOU'VE GOTTA LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE... Y'KNOW?
YOU SHOULD USE YOUR ENERGY ON SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE. LIKE...
LIKE HOW I DO WITH MY PITCHING!
TREMBLE
YOU NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO CLEAR YOUR HEAD.

I SHOULD TELL HIM HOW I FEEL AND GET REJECTED. THAT'LL CLEAR MY HEAD.
THAT'S IT.

STOMP!
STOMP!
STOMP
HEY! SHIBATA. WAIT!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO STUDY. MY EMOTIONS HAVE BEEN RUNNING WILD.
GOD, I'VE WASTED SO MUCH TIME WORRYING ABOUT THIS STUPID CRUSH.
YEAH... WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE?
I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS ALREADY!
BESIDES, I'VE ALWAYS HATED HAVING TO WAIT!
OH, REALLY?
OUENDAN

SLIDE
ガラッ
IMA-MURA-KUN!
WE NEED TO TALK!

REO-CHAN, YOU'RE BACK!
I WAS THINKING ABOUT GOING TO LOOK FOR YOU.
WHAT IS IT?
OH, YEAH?

MENTAL SIMULATION
I'VE GOT A GAME TO WORRY ABOUT, SHI-BATA.
FOR REAL? SORRY.
IMA-MURA-KUN,
I LIKE YOU.
...
ULP...
STARE
WHAT DID YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT?
ULP...
HEY.
SUZUKI'S HERE, TOO?

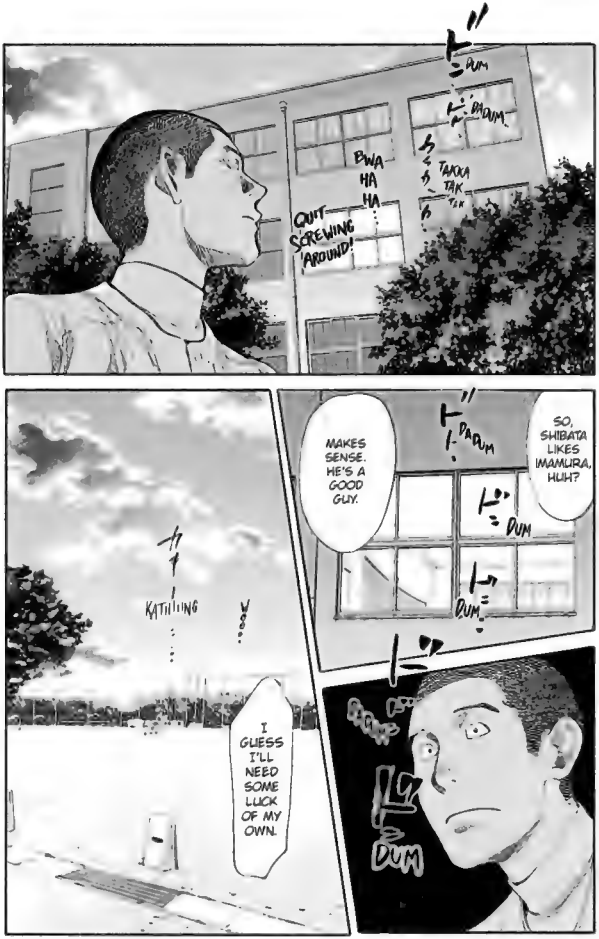
I WANT SOME-THING EASY TO LEARN!
NOW, CAP-TAIN!
DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS FOR MOVES WE CAN USE?
DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT! UGH!
WE'RE DOING THE MOVES WE DECIDED ON OVER AGAIN FROM THE START!
NO ONE'S GONNA FOLLOW ALONG IF THEY CAN'T GET IT IN THREE MINUTES OR LESS.
THE ONES YOU'VE SHOWN US SO FAR ARE WAY TOO IN-VOLVED.
YEAH ...
BUT THE PRACTICE GAME IS DAY AFTER TO-MORROW.
THEY'RE MAKING A NEW CHEER?
WHAT?

DUM
DADUM
TH-

That's really cool...
SHIBATA,
WEREN'T YOU GONNA TELL HIM?
YEAH...
BUT FOR NOW,
I WANT TO WORK ON OUR CHEERS WITH EVERYONE ELSE.
ONCE THE PRACTICE GAME IS OVER,
THEN I'LL TELL HIM.
OKAY.
GOOD LUCK.
THANKS.
I BETTER HEAD BACK.
I MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE FOR DUCKING OUT OF PRACTICE.
OH, WELL, THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

PLEASE, JUST DON'T TELL ANYONE.
GOT IT.

WHAT THE HELL?
SINCE WHEN ARE THOSE TWO SO CLOSE?
AND WHY AM I GETTING AGGRA-VATED?
DUM
DA DUM
TAKKA TAK TAK
DA DUM


DUM
DA DUM
BWA HA HA
TAKKA TAK TAK
QUIT SCREWING AROUND!
SO, SHIBATA LIKES IMAMURA, HUH?
MAKES SENSE. HE'S A GOOD GUY.
DUM
DUM
DUM
KATHUNG
WOO
I GUESS I'LL NEED SOME LUCK OF MY OWN.

Again!!
アゲイン!!!

MAKE SURE TO COME CHEER FOR OUR TEAM TOMORROW!
HEY EVERYBODY!
I HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT!
TOMORROW'S THE DAY!
46. DANCE! SEXUAL RELATIONS!
WHAT'S WITH THAT GIRL? SHE'S BEEN DOING THIS ALL MORNING.
IS IT POLITICAL CANVASSING? WHAT A PAIN.
HERE!
SHOVE
SHOVE
THE BASEBALL CLUB'S SPRING PRACTICE GAME IS TOMORROW. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
AND BE SURE TO JOIN US AT THIS EVENING'S INTERCLUB TRAINING SESSION IN THE CENTRAL COURTYARD!

KABOSU MINAMI'S BASEBALL CLUB NEEDS US TO CHEER THEM ON!!
BAM!
Tomorrow, they play again: Kabokoku at the spring practice game!
KABOSU MINAMI NEEDS US TO CHEER THEM ON!!
BASEBALL CLUB
SUZUKI
CAPTAIN
THIS FLYER WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR PLAYERS,
SO COME AND SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT EVERY ONE OF THESE HUNKS!
Yeah, he lacks a certain komo-thing.
Hmm, I don't think he's my type.
Outfielder
Kenji Kimura
186 cm 89 kg
Left/Right switch hitter
Ota Kazuno Middle School
Pitcher
Nagomi Tamura
176 cm 76 kg
Kabosu Minami Middle School
Infielder
Hiromi Sagihara
189 cm 90 kg
Left/Right freelancer
Wanita Middle School
OUR TEAM'S NEVER BEEN THAT GREAT, BUT HE'S GONNA BE OUR SAVIOR!
HE'S SET TO BE THE STARTING PITCHER DESPITE A RECENT KNEE INJURY.
GET A LOAD OF SUZUKI, THE FIRST-YEAR ACE!
THE CAPTAIN IS A MUST-SEE!
(ALTHOUGH HE HAS A GIRL-FRIEND...)
CAPTAIN
AND HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE!
Wooow! ♥
He's pretty good-looking!

WE NEED EVERYONE WE CAN TO COME CHEER AT THE GAME!
HEY, LISTEN!
YOU ONLY GO TO HIGH SCHOOL ONCE, GIRLS! WHY NOT TRY DATING AN ATHLETE? IT CAN'T HURT!
WHAT'S THIS? DID YOU GET PERMISSION TO HAND THESE OUT?
ACK!
?!
SNATCH
HUH...
...YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD FOR THE OUENDAN. I'M IMPRESSED.
REALLY, REO-CHAN, EVER SINCE YOU QUIT THE CHEER SQUAD...
BA DUM

YOU LIKE THAT NEW GUY, IMAMURA, RIGHT?
TWITCH
DON'T YOU KNOW HE AND USAMI-SAN ARE IN LOVE, THOUGH? I MEAN, THEY'VE ALREADY KISSED. ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
TWITCH
TWITCH
DAMN! I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STAND IT.
YOU POOR THING!
YOU DON'T EVEN MIND IF HE'S JUST USING YOU, DO YOU?
FWIP

WE WORKED TOGETHER AND CAME UP WITH THIS AS ANOTHER WAY TO CHEER OUR TEAM ON!
WE WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW AS MUCH AS THEY CAN ABOUT THEM— ANYTHING TO GET EVEN ONE MORE PERSON IN THE STANDS!

HE'S GONNA REJECT YOU, Y'KNOW.
IS THAT SO?
CRUNCH
YOU'VE TOUGHENED UP.
WOW, REO-CHAN.
Hi there!
Oh, hey! Morning, Shige!
SNUGH...
CLASS WILL START SOON.
LET'S FINISH PASSING THESE OUT.
OKAY.
I CAN'T STAND HER!
HAAAGH.
WHAT?
NO WAY.
DING DOONG
DING DOONG
DING DOONG

SNORE
HURGH
HURGH
SNOOOORE
IMA-MURA!
HEY! IMA-MURA! WAKE UP!
SCHOOL'S OVER! IT'S TIME FOR SOME INTERCLUB TRAINING!
SMACK
BWUH ?!
UGG-GGH...
I'M SO SLEEPY...
WE STAYED LATE FOR PRACTICE YESTERDAY, AND THEN WE HAD MORE PRACTICE THIS MORNING.
I'VE ONLY SLEPT AN HOUR, TOO... MY BRAIN'S NOT WORKING AT ALL... I'M SO TIRED...
OH!
IT'S BASEBALL CLUB CHEER THEM ON!
Tomorrow, they play against Kidokaku at the spring practice game!
GET IT TOGETHER!
IMA-MURA'S WITH THOSE GIRLS AGAIN.
THEY'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER. I WONDER IF HE'S GOING OUT WITH ONE OF THEM.

BUT AREN'T PEOPLE SAYING HE'S HAVING SEX WITH THE OUENDAN'S CAPTAIN?
WAIT, REALLY?
EW!
HOW MANY GIRL-FRIENDS DOES HE HAVE?!
DAMN!
...
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE AN INTERCLUB TRAINING SESSION IN THE COURT-YARD SOON, RIGHT?
ドゥム
ドゥム
ドゥム
I DON'T KNOW
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH, I GET IT.
THOSE GIRLS WERE PASSING OUT FLY-ERS THIS MORNING.
ドゥーン
ドゥム
ドドド

HOORAY!!
GO
KANA
HOORAY!
DUM
DUM
YAMAHA
DUM
DUM
DUM
WOOOO

IMAMURA! I WANNA HEAR YOU YELL LOUDER THAN THAT!
CLAP
CLAP
HOORAY
HOORAY...
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
IMAMURA! YOU'RE MAKING IT OBVIOUS HOW TIRED YOU ARE!
THAT'S THE WRONG MOVE!
TWITCH
IMAMURA!
OH, THERE HE IS.
COME ON, IMAMURA!
YOU GOT THIS!
LOOK, HE'S GETTING FUSSED. SERIOUSLY.
HE SURE IS GOOD AT GETTING IN THE WAY!
HE HASN'T IMPROVED AT ALL SINCE LAST TIME.
THAT GUY AGAIN?
CHATTER
CHATTER
PANT
PANT...

CHATTER CHATTER...
AWW, LOOK AT THAT FROWN. WHAT A CUTIE!
I'M GONNA TAKE A PICTURE.
IMAMURA'S SO BAD!
IT'S FUNNY!
SQUEE
SQUEE
WE'LL HAVE OUR NEW CHEERS READY BY TOMORROW.
WE'D APPRECIATE THE CHEER SQUAD'S COOPERATION AT THE GAME.
HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO NEW CHEERS WHEN YOU CAN'T EVEN PULL OFF THE OLD ONES?!
YOU CAN COUNT US OUT!

SIR!
ABE!
SORRY, SIR!
I MEAN, HONESTLY, BEING ASSOCIATED WITH YOU GUYS IS BAD ENOUGH AT THE BEST OF TIMES.
GLANCE
WHEEZE
HAAH!

DON'T FORGET— THE AUDIENCE AT TOMORROW'S PRACTICE GAME MIGHT NOT EVEN BOTHER TO NOTICE THE OUENDAN.
OF COURSE,
WE CAN COVER FOR YOU GUYS IF IT COMES TO THAT.

H-HUH...?
WE'LL BE SURE TO CARRY OUT OUR DUTIES.
RIGHT.
AAAGH! DAMN IT, ABE-TAMA!
YOU ALWAYS KNOW JUST HOW TO GET UNDER MY SKIN!

LET'S MAKE THIS A PART OF OUR NEW CHEERS!
I LIKE IT!
?!
THAT RHYTHM HAS SO MUCH SOUL...
DUM
DUM TAKKA TAK
DADUM
OUENDAN!
DUM TAKKA TAK
MOCK ME, WILL YOU ?!

WE ALREADY HAVE PLENTY OF IDEAS. WHAT WE NEED NOW IS TO NARROW THEM DOWN.
WAIT, YOU'RE STILL GOING?

WE CAN JUST TRY A BUNCH OF THEM AND GO WITH WHATEVER GETS THE BEST REACTION.
THE MORE, THE BETTER.
WHATEVER. IT'S FINE.

WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE, CAPTAIN?
WHAT'S WRONG?
WE SHOULD TRY TO GET OUR NEW STUFF DOWN PAT TONIGHT!
GAAAH! WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!
LUNGE

ARE YOU SURE...
...IT'S OKAY TO MAKE CHEERING SO ENJOYABLE?
YOU DON'T THINK PEOPLE ARE GOING TO MOCK US OR ANYTHING?
IT'S LIKE WE'RE THROWING ALL OF OUR HARD-WON DISCIPLINE OUT THE WINDOW...
HEY, WHO KNOWS? MAYBE WE'LL SCREW IT ALL UP AND MAKE EVERYONE HATE US.
WHOA!
DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!
OUR BASEBALL TEAM COULD GET CRUSHED, TOO.
STILL...
...I'D RATHER THAT THAN HAVE YOU TRY TO CHEER ON YOUR OWN, MESS UP, MAKE US LOSE THE GAME, AND DROP OUT OF SCHOOL, CAPTAIN.
SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

IF YOU'RE GONNA REGRET IT EITHER WAY,
YOU MIGHT AS WELL GET TO REGRET HAVING DONE WHAT YOU WANTED TO.

IMAMURA!
YOU'RE BEING TOO CYNICAL!
ROAR
DUMB-ASS!
WE'RE NOT EVEN THERE YET AND YOU'RE ALREADY TALKING ABOUT LOSING!
WHAT?
NO WAY, I'M BEING OPTIMISTIC.
HURK

ALL RIGHT!
LET'S DO THIS!
OSU!
LOUDER!
DID I REALLY JUST SEE IMAMURA... CHEER SOMEONE UP?
HE REALLY HAS CHANGED.

"YOU'RE JUST IN THE WAY."
"IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, IMAMURA..."
"IT'S YOUR FAULT WE LOST."
KANAN

I COULDN'T SLEEP AT ALL...
DAMN IT...
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT!
IF WE LOSE BECAUSE OF ME...
...WILL THE CAPTAIN...

THIS IS A DO-OVER.
I CAN CHANGE THIS WORLD.
AND I'M GONNA DO IT!

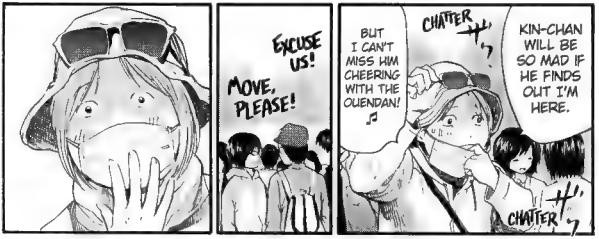
47. CHECK OUT WHO'S CHECKING IN

KIN-CHAN! TIME TO GET UP!
YOU'VE GOT A GAME TO CHEER AT! HURRY UP AND-
SLIDE
QUIET DOWN! I'M AL-READY UP.
EEP!
...HUH?
GLOOM...
OH, KIN-CHAN... ... DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP?
UGH...
I'M NOT HUN-GRY.
NO BREAK-FAST FOR ME.
COLLAPSE
OH, NO!
HOW ARE YOU SUP-POSED TO CHEER LIKE THAT?
You should eat something.

OH GOD, I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS.
ばたん
THUNK
ACTUALLY...
...MAYBE I REALLY CAN'T.
I DON'T THINK I CAN.
THE TEAM WHOSE SIDE I'M ON ALWAYS LOSES.
WHY SHOULD TODAY BE ANY DIFFERENT?
しーん
HUUUSH
THEN...
...WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THE DAY OFF?
がばっ
JOLT
HELL NO!
BYE! GOOD LUCK!
WOBBLE WOBBLE
WAVE WAVE
...
FIRST THING IN THE MORNING AND I ALREADY FEEL LIKE CRAP.

THIS IS THE PLACE.
KABOSU CITY PUBLIC BASEBALL STADIU

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG


EXCUSE US!
MOVE, PLEASE!
BUT I CAN'T MISS HIM CHEERING WITH THE OUENDAN! ♫
CHATTER
KIN-CHAN WILL BE SO MAD IF HE FINDS OUT I'M HERE.
CHATTER

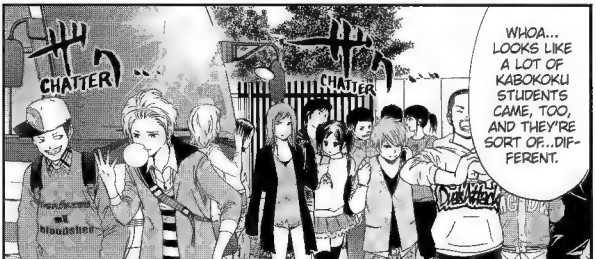
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
COME ON AND LIFT, IMAMURA!
I AM LIFTING, LUCKY SUGA.

CHATTER...
WHAT ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE DOING HERE?
CHATTER...
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS 'CAUSE OF ALL THE ALUMNI, AND THE PLAYERS' FAMILIES.
IT LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF STUDENTS HAVE SHOWN UP THANKS TO US PASSING THEM OUT YESTERDAY!
AND PEOPLE LIKED THESE PLAYER LINE-UP FLYERS WE MADE!
KEEP BRINGING THAT STUFF IN!
ALL RIGHT! HURRY UP AND FINISH GETTING THINGS READY!

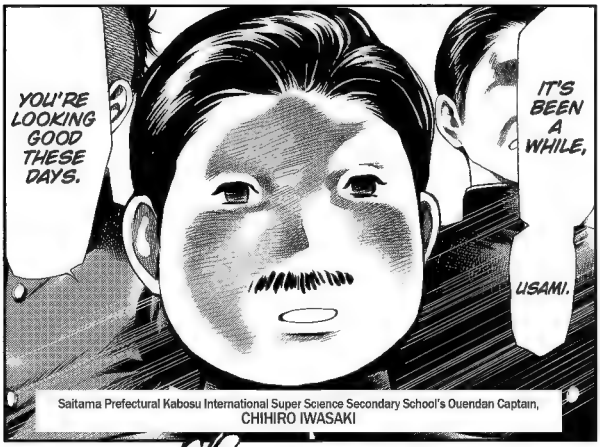
USAMI-SAN.
ARE YOU STILL NOT READY?
HURRY IT UP AL-READY.
THE OUENDAN IS ENOUGH OF A WASTE OF SPACE AS IT IS.
U-Usami?
CAP-TAIN.
WHERE DO YOU WANT THIS?
THEN WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP, ABE-SAN?
HUP
AGH, NO!
HONK
HOOONK
HOOONK

?!
PREFECTURAL KABOSU INTERNATIONAL
SCIENCE SECONDARY SCHOOL

LOOK AT ALL THOSE BUSES!
KABO-KOKU'S HERE!


CHATTER...
CHATTER
WHOA... LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF KABOKOKU STUDENTS CAME, TOO, AND THEY'RE SORT OF...DIFFERENT.

KABOKOKU'S NUMBER ONE!!
I THINK THEY BROUGHT IN MORE ALUMNI AND FAMILIES THAN US, TOO.
YEEAH!
HEY. LOOK.
WHOA.
LOOK WHO GOT OFF THE BUS.
TUP...
TUP...
TUP..
GASP
FWIP


IT'S BEEN A WHILE, USAMI.
YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD THESE DAYS.
Saitama Prefectural Kabosu International Super Science Secondary School's Ouendan Captain, CHIHIRO IWASAKI

ボボンッ!!!
HUH?!

FWISH
HI-YA!
FWOOP
ほ〇ぺ
ACK!
(GASP)
CAP-TAIN!
YOU BITCH!
N-
NO!
I WASN'T ...!
GOOD.
WELL, THIS IS A ROUGH WELCOME.

I LIKE MY WOMEN AGGRES-SIVE.
AFTER KABO-KOKU WINS TODAY,
I'LL COMFORT YOU IN MY EMBRACE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?
CAP-TAIN!
IT-
CAP-TAIN ?!
DUMP

IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME.
HE'S SO COOL I COULD DIE...

USAMI-SAN! ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT THAT GUY?
DON'T GET SWEPT OFF YOUR FEET THAT EAS-ILY!
YOU'RE FALLING IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN!
YOU REALLY DO LIKE CAPTAIN IWASAKI FROM KABOKOKU, DON'T YOU, USAMI?

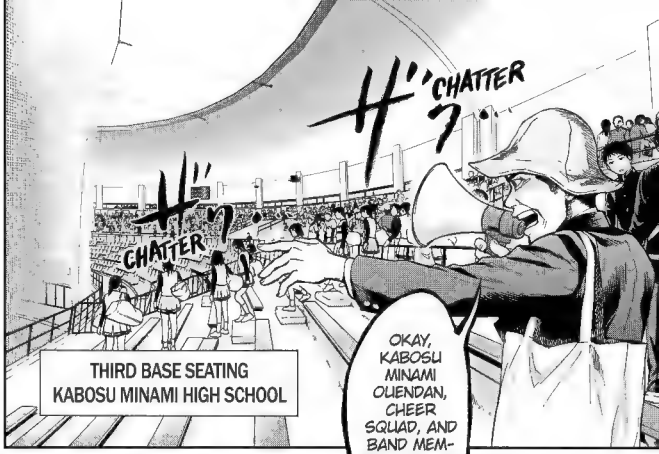
WAIT...
SHE STILL LIKES THAT GUY?!
IWASAKI JUST SAYS MEAN STUFF LIKE THAT TO ENCOURAGE ME.
Y-YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.

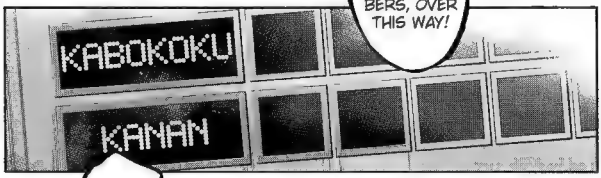
FUCK!
FUCK!
YOU BITCH!!
I'LL KILL YOU!
What's the matter?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
HUP
HUP
WHAT'S UP, GUYS?
GASP
OKAY!
LET'S GIVE THIS EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT TODAY!
AND USAMI!
YEAH!
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT HOLDING BACK TO GET YOURSELF A HUG!

DON'T BE RIDIC-ULOUS!
WHAT-EVER IT TAKES, WE'RE GONNA WIN!
KANAN!
GO TEAM!

KANAAN!
GO TEAM!
KANAAAN!
GO TEAM!
GOOO!
AND HE WAS SO SURE HE COULDN'T DO IT THIS MORNING.
OH MY GOD! IMAMURA'S SO COOL! I COULD JUST DIE!
GET A PICTURE OF HIM WITH THE CAMERA!
RIGHT, I'M ON IT! ☆
SQUEE
SQUEE
WHAT'S WITH THAT OLD LADY?
?
MUTTER MUTTER
MUTTER MUTTER
WHAT A CREEP.

48. THE WEIRDO OUENDAN FIVE


CHATTER
CHATTER
THIRD BASE SEATING
KABOSU MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL
OKAY, KABOSU MINAMI OUENDAN, CHEER SQUAD, AND BAND MEMBERS, OVER THIS WAY!


KABOKOKU
KANAN

WE HAVE SEATING FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE TEAM OVER HERE!
FIRST BASE SEATING
KABOSU INTERNATIONAL SUPER SCIENCE SCHOOL
CHATTER
KABOKOKU OUENDAN

WHOA!
CHATTER
CHATTER
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE... KABOKOKU'S STANDS ARE PACKED.
HMM?
DUM
DADUM
DUM
DUM
DADUM
DUM
DUM
TAKKA
TAK
KANAN
TAK
WHAT IS THAT?
THE DRUMS SOUND SORT OF... DIFFERENT.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
KANAN
DUM
DADUM
DUM

THE GATE
WAIT...
SINCE WHEN DOES THE OUENDAN USE TAIKO DRUMS?
AND WHO IS THAT GUY?
DA DA DA
TAKKA TAK TAK
OH!
HE'S THAT GUY WHO GREW UP OVERSEAS.
THE GURU OF GROVELING!
What a creep.
Whoa!
HE'S IN THE OUENDAN, RIGHT? I GUESS THEY'RE ALL WEIRDOS.
DUM
SO NOW HE WANTS TO BE THE GURU OF TAIKO, TOO? THAT'S FUNNY!
OH MY GOD.
WHAT A CREEPER!
DA DUM

SHUT THE HELL UP, YOU UGLY SKANKS!
FLINCH
ヒィ

OH YEAH, ISN'T YELLING ALL HE KNOWS HOW TO DO? HE'S THAT GUY FROM THE KARATE CLUB WITH THE WEIRD NAME.
WHAT WAS IT? Rocky or something?
TAKE A SEAT!
YOU'RE LATE ENOUGH ALREADY!
HURRY UP!
GOD... THAT BLAZER IS WAY TOO LONG ON HIM. IT'S SO TACKY.
WHO'S THAT YELLING GUY?

OH, WAS HE YELLING AT YOU GUYS?
I'M SORRY. HE'S LIKE THAT TO EVERYONE. HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO TALK TO CUTE GIRLS.
BUT SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY HERE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL STICK AROUND AND SEE THE GAME. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SIT THERE AND WATCH. IT COULD BE FUN.
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR SERIOUS BUSINESS.
YEAH.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
EEP!
LEAVING ALREADY?
FWIP
WAIT!

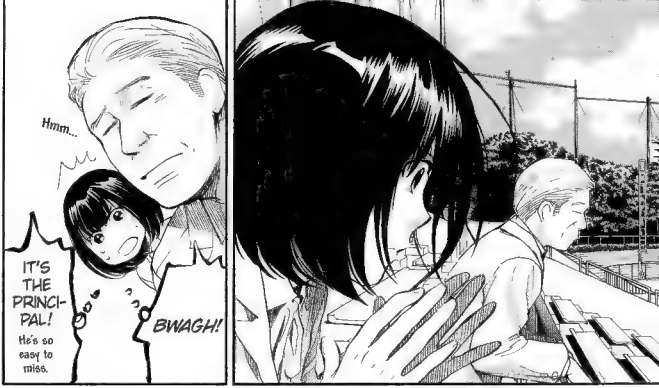
HEY, OKA! WE'RE HERE!
HEY, YOU GUYS!
YOU SAID YOU NEEDED MORE PEOPLE TO COME CHEER, RIGHT?
YEAH! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
SORRY I HAD TO SPRING THIS ON YOU.
WHAT-EVER, IT'S COOL.
YOU ALREADY SEEM TIRED.
ANY-WAY, IT MUST'VE BEEN ROUGH.
I MEAN, YOU HAD TO GO AROUND BEGGING PEOPLE TO SHOW UP.
I GUESS THAT USAMI GIRL CAN BE A REAL HARD-ASS, HUH?
SIII
IIGH...
NO.
NOT REALLY.
I JUST WANTED EVERYONE TO SEE US CHEER-ING AT THIS GAME.

JUST WATCH. THIS ISN'T GONNA BE THE OUENDAN YOU'RE USED TO.
...
HEY, CAP-TAIN!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS THE TIME TO BE MAKING GOOGLY EYES AT KABOKOKU'S CAPTAIN?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHAT?
THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, IMAMURA?
I am not making googly eyes!
THUNK
SHUMP
WHAT'S GOT YOU ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE TODAY?
NOTHING.
ARE YOU THAT UPSET ABOUT HAVING TO DO THE GRUNT WORK? DO YOU NOT CARE ANYMORE?
NO.

I THINK YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T CARE, CAPTAIN.
AFTER ALL, THE ONLY REASON YOU WANT TO KEEP THE QUENDAN GOING IS TO HELP YOU CATCH THE EYE OF THAT MUSTACHIOED RUNT.
GOD, WHAT A LET-DOWN.

SNAP OUT OF IT!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR GRIPING, NUMB-SKULL!
SPLAAASH
HUUUUUUSH
...
ROAR
YOU BITCH!
CHATTER
WHOA!
THEY'RE FIGHTING!
YOU GUYS! STOP IT!
IMA-MURA-AAA!


Hmm...
IT'S THE PRINCI-PAL!
He's so easy to miss.
BWAGH!

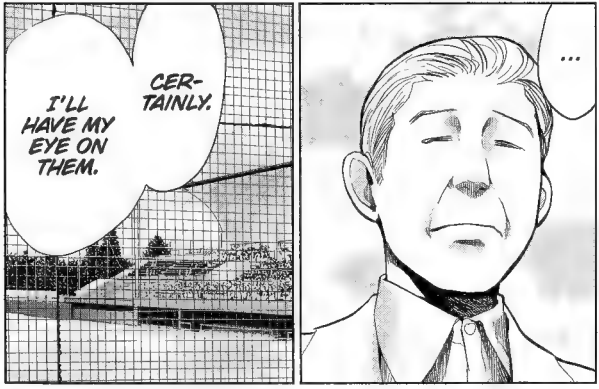
THEN WHAT MADE YOU FALL ALL OVER YOURSELF EARLIER LIKE, "HE'S SO COOL I COULD DIE!"? YOU'RE LIKE A DOG IN HEAT!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?! I DON'T WANT HIM TO HUG ME OR WHATEVER! I JUST HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR HIM!

HUH?
OH!
HI, MR. PRINCI-PAL!
Hmmm
UH-OH. THIS ISN'T GOOD.
I WONDER IF THAT STUFF ABOUT YOU-KNOW-WHAT IN THE CLUB ROOM IS TRUE?
AREN'T THEY THE COUPLE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT?
DAMN.
THEY'RE FIGHTING IN FRONT OF EVERY-ONE.

OH MY GOD! ♥ YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME!
IT'S SO ENCOURAGING TO HAVE YOU HERE! ♥
GUUUH!
ABE-TAMA!
YOU'RE THAT CHEERLEADER.
I'M TAMAKI ABE, CAPTAIN OF THE CHEER SQUAD!
YES!

I THINK I SPEAK NOT JUST FOR THE CHEERLEADERS, BUT FOR ALL THE STUDENTS OF KABOSU MINAMI WHEN I SAY THAT WE CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE OUENDAN'S SELF-INDULGENT WAY OF CHEERING.
I'M PRETTY SURE THEY'RE GOING TO PULL SOMETHING WEIRD TODAY!
?!
THE PRINCIPAL?!
Oh yeah, you're right!
Hey, it's the principal!

SO, MR. PRINCIPAL, I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO JUDGE WHETHER OUR CURRENT OUENDAN IS A GOOD REPRESENTATION OF OUR SCHOOL.


...
CER-TAINLY.
I'LL HAVE MY EYE ON THEM.

DUM
DADUM
WISH
WOOOOOO
IT'S KABOKOKU.
THEY'VE STARTED PRACTICING THEIR CHEERS.
WHAT'S THAT?

SAITAMA PREFECTURAL KABOSU INTERNATIONAL SUPER SCIENCE SECONDARY SCHOOL, LET THE FIGHT SONG BEGIN!
SNAP
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM

OHHH, WE
WHOOO
DAMN!
ALL THOSE MALE VOICES REALLY RESO-NATE...
DUM
DUM
WILL
STUUDY
AND
THEIR STUDENTS ALL LOOK LIKE A BUNCH OF SLACKERS, BUT THEY'RE TAKING THIS SONG REALLY SERIOUSLY.
KABOKOKU USED TO BE AN ALL-BOYS' SCHOOL, AND THEY'RE STILL MALE-DOMINATED.
THEIR OLD TRADITIONS REMAIN INTACT, SO EVERY SINGLE STUDENT OF THEIRS GETS THIS STUFF BEATEN INTO THEM.
COME ON!
IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?!
THEIR OUENDAN TEACHES THEM EVERYTHING STARTING THE DAY OF THEIR ENTRANCE CEREMONY.

WOOOOO
THEY'RE ALL VERY PROUD OF THEIR OUENDAN.
AND THE GUARDIANS AND ALUMNI TRUST THEM DEEPLY, AS WELL.
TRADITIONALLY, THE OUENDAN IS THE CENTRAL PILLAR THAT HOLDS KABOKOKU TOGETHER. THEY LEAD THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY.

IT'S KABOKOKU'S OUENDAN.
AREN'T THEY GREAT?
HUH?

SHUT UP.
SO, IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE NOTHING LIKE US.

IF WE RELY ON THE SAME FORCEFUL, TRADITIONAL CHEERS AS THEM,
WE'RE GOING TO LOSE.
STILL ...
YOU'RE RIGHT.

WELL, YEAH.
I'VE ALREADY TAKEN THAT WEAK POINT OF OURS INTO ACCOUNT.
BEFORE ANY-THING ELSE ...
...WE HAVE TO START...
...BY GETTING THE AUDIENCE ON OUR SIDE.
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
WOOOOO

Again!!
アゲイン!!

49. WHY I'M HERE

KABOKOKU'S STANDS ARE GOING WILD, AND THE GAME HASN'T EVEN STARTED YET.

US, ON THE OTHER HAND...

WELL, JUST LOOK.

チラッ
GLANCE

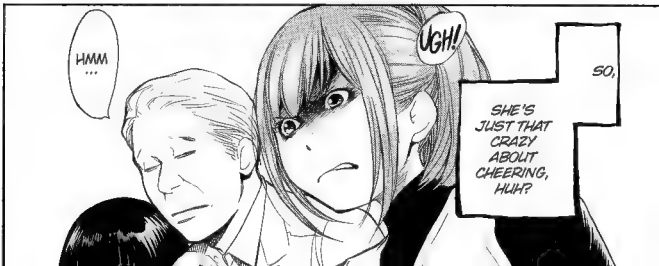
ALL THOSE MALE VOICES RESONATE SO WELL!
WOW!
THAT'S IMPRESSIVE.
KABOKOKU'S LOOKING SO PUMPED.
THEY'RE SO COOL.
I WOULDN'T EXPECT THEM TO PUT SO MUCH EFFORT INTO CHEERING AT A PRACTICE GAME.
CHATTER
CHATTER
I GUESS OUR OUENDAN DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE.
NOT THAT I WAS EXPECTING MUCH, WHAT WITH A GIRL FOR A CAPTAIN AND ALL.

I want you to record this for us.
Okay
WHATEVER YOU'RE THINKING, JUST SPIT IT OUT!
COME ON. NORMALLY YOU'D GIVE SOMEONE A HEAD BUTT AT A TIME LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T LOOK FINE!
...
I'M FINE.
YOU LOOK REALLY DOWN. WHAT'S UP?
CAPTAIN,
GLOOM
...THE OUENDAN FELL APART BECAUSE EVERYONE HATED ME, AND NO ONE TRUSTED ME, AND I JUST KEPT DOING WHATEVER I WANTED ANYWAY, RIGHT?
BEFORE YOUR DO-OVER...
DUM
DA DUM
...
...
YEAH.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IN THE END, I LOST TO KABOKOKU, RIGHT?
WOOOO
DUM
DUM
DUM

COME ON.
HEY!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU COME ALL THIS WAY AND NOW YOU'RE SCARED? YOU'RE OVER-THINKING THINGS!
OR DO YOU STILL NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A DO-OVER? WELL, IT'S THE TRUTH!
OH, I GET IT! YOU STILL WANT A HUG FROM KABO-KOKU'S CAPTAIN, DON'T YOU? WELL?!
SNKK
YEAH, I WAS FEELING A LITTLE NER-VOUS.
BUT NOW ...
...I CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH AT MYSELF FOR THAT!
CLENCH

WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE...
...HOW CAN I BE ANY-THING BUT OVER-JOYED ?!
FWOOM

WHOA, WHAT'S WITH HER AND THAT CREEPY SMILE?
SPARKLE
キラ
キラキラ
STARE
IS SHE GLARING AT US?
WHO KNOWS ?
WITH THE CAPTAIN ON THIS EMOTIONAL ROLLER-COASTER, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE NER-VOUS.


UGH!
SO, SHE'S JUST THAT CRAZY ABOUT CHEERING, HUH?
HMM ...

CAP-
TAIN!
THE STANDS ARE READY NOW!
I'M GOOD TO GO WHEN-EVER YOU ARE, CAP-TAIN!
IT'S TIME FOR US TO START PRAC-TICING OUR CHEERS, CAP-TAIN!

I'LL DISEMBOWEL YOU LATER.
WINK
OKAY, LET'S DO IT, OKUMA!
DUM
KABO KOSHI!!

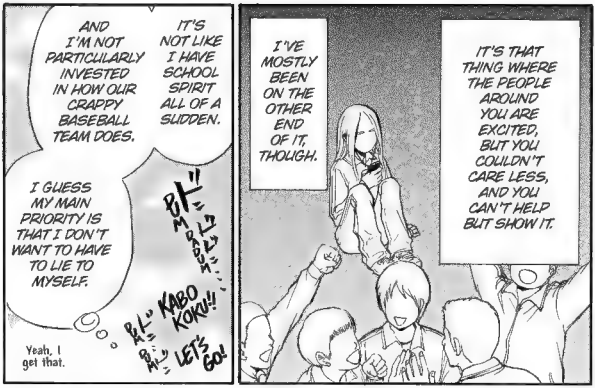
SAITAMA PREFECTURE KABOSU MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL, LET THE FIGHT SONG BEGIN!
KANAN

DUM
DUM
DUM
D
DOOOO
D
DOOO
D
DOOO
D
DOOOO
HEY, AKI-CHAN.
YEAH?
WHEN DO YOU THINK THEY'RE GONNA DO THAT NEW CHEER?

WELL, THEY SAID THEY'D DO IT AFTER REHEARSING THE FIGHT AND SPIRIT SONGS, BUT BEFORE THE GAME STARTED.
DUM
BUT THAT ASIDE ...
KABOKU!!
WOOOOO
KABOKU!!
DA DUM
DUM
NEXT TO KABOKU, OUR CHEERS SEEM PRETTY WEAK, HUH?
DADUM

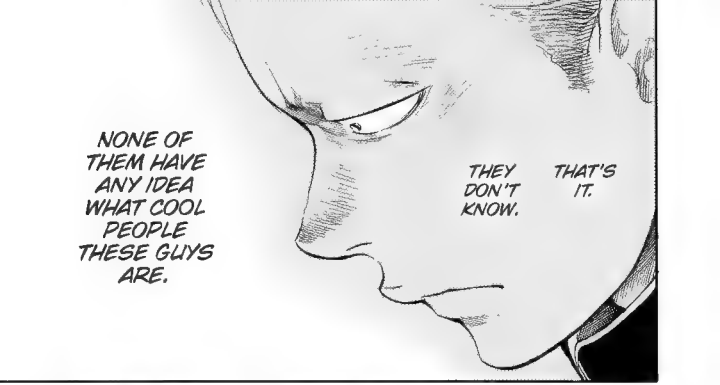
LOUDER!
THAT'S NOT GONNA CUT IT ONCE THE GAME GETS STARTED!
THAT GOES DOUBLY ...
...FOR ANYONE NOT IN THE BASEBALL CLUB!!!
HUH ...

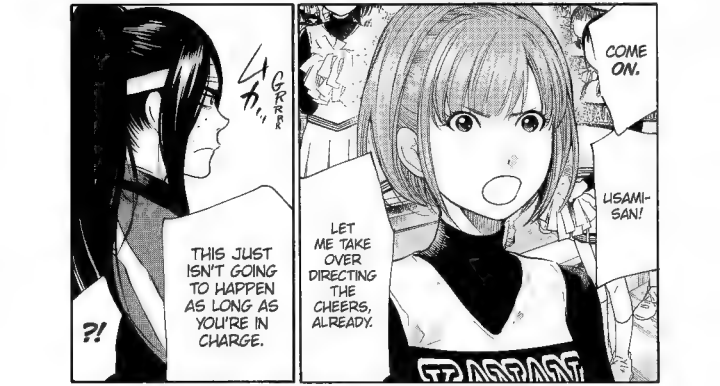
THIS FEELING SEEMS ...
...FAMILIAR


AND I'M NOT PARTICULARLY INVESTED IN HOW OUR CRAPPY BASEBALL TEAM DOES.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE SCHOOL SPIRIT ALL OF A SUDDEN.
I GUESS MY MAIN PRIORITY IS THAT I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO LIE TO MYSELF.
Yeah, I get that.
I'VE MOSTLY BEEN ON THE OTHER END OF IT, THOUGH.
IT'S THAT THING WHERE THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU ARE EXCITED, BUT YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS, AND YOU CAN'T HELP BUT SHOW IT.
KABO KOKU!!
LET'S GO!

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SING ONE WORD!
HEY, YOU UGLY SKANKS!
ALL I CAN THINK OF ARE WAYS TO MAKE THINGS EVEN MORE AWKWARD, LIKE...
WHAT CAN WE DO TO PUT THIS CROWD IN A BETTER MOOD?
IF YOU DON'T WANNA PARTICI-PATE, THEN GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!

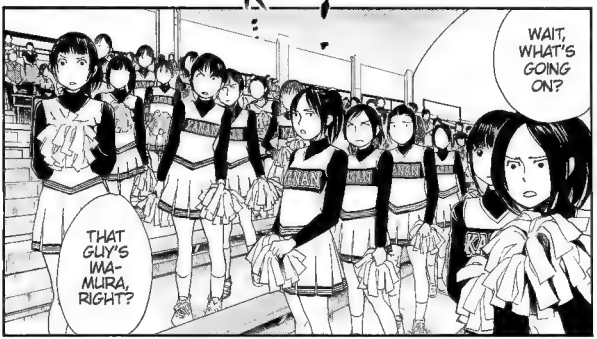
I'M REALLY SORRY!
HEY, OKA!
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH LUCKY SUGA AND HIS BIG MOUTH?
IS THIS GAME GONNA TAKE A WHILE?
AAAAAGH!
SORRY ABOUT THAT! WAIT UP!
HE'S A LAUGHING STOCK.
IT'S OVER.
WHAT'S THE USE IN A NEW WAY OF CHEERING?
THE BIGGER PROBLEM IS...
...THAT PEOPLE DON'T TRUST US.
ONE OF THOSE FLYERS FUJIEDA WAS PASSING OUT...
BASEBALL CLUB
SUGA
WELL...
WHATEVER, I GUESS.
I DIDN'T CARE BEFORE THE DO-OVER.


NONE OF THEM HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT COOL PEOPLE THESE GUYS ARE.
THEY DON'T KNOW.
THAT'S IT.


GRRR
?!
THIS JUST ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN AS LONG AS YOU'RE IN CHARGE.
LET ME TAKE OVER DIRECTING THE CHEERS, ALREADY.
USAMI-SAN!
COME ON.

WHAT?
DON'T START FIGHTING AGAIN!
REEEEE
REEEEE
REEEEE

YAMAHA
CHATTER


WAIT, WHAT'S GOING ON?
THAT GUY'S IMAMURA, RIGHT?

UGH! THERE'S NOTHING EXCITING ABOUT THIS! THE CAPTAIN MUST BE SOME KIND OF PERVERT!
IMA-MURA ?!
HUH ?
KIN-CHAN ?
HFFf ス ...
OSU!
I'M A FORMER STUDENT OF NERIMA WARD KODAN MIDDLE SCHOOL IN TOKYO!

HUUUUUUSH
KAKIN
C-COME ON!
AREN'T YOU GUYS SUPPOSED TO YELL, "WHAT PRESTIGE!" NOW?
OH!
THAT.
OH.
OKAY. THAT.
GASP
WHAT PRESTIGE!
A-ALL RIGHT.
UHH...
GLINT

KIN-ICHIRO IMA-MURA!
I'M THE MAN WHO CURSES EVERY TEAM HE CHEERS FOR TO LOSE...
I STAND BEFORE YOU AS THE NEWEST MEMBER OF KABOSU MINAMI'S OUENDAN!
...IN THE FLESH!

Again!!
アゲイン!!

50.
OUR DEAR, GLORIOUS OUENDAN!

I STAND BEFORE YOU AS THE NEWEST MEMBER...
...OF KABOSU MINAMI'S OUENDAN!
I'M THE MAN WHO CURSES EVERY TEAM HE CHEERS FOR TO LOSE...
...KINICHIRO IMAMURA!
IN THE FLESH!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HUH?

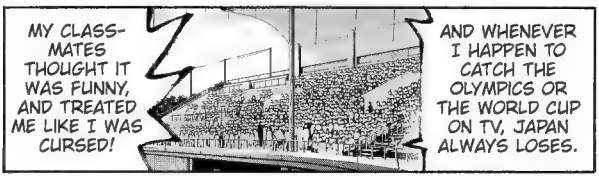
GET OFF THAT PLATFORM NOW, IMA-MURA!
YOU CAN'T JUST START SPOUTING NONSENSE!

I'M SORRY, MR. PRINCIPAL.
BOW
BOW
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING?

IS THERE A SPLIT IN THE OLEN-DAN?!
WAIT, WHAT?
IMA-MURA!
GET OFF!

HURRY UP AND START PRAC-TICING YOUR CHEERS!
HFFF

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ON THE LOSING TEAM IN P.E., STARTING IN DAYCARE AND CONTINUING THROUGHOUT ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WE LOST EVERY TIME, EVEN WHEN I JUST STUCK TO THE SIDELINES AND TRIED TO STAY OUT OF THE WAY.
...I'VE SEEN MANY GAMES PLAYED, AND THE TEAMS I'VE ROOTED FOR...
...HAVEN'T WON A SINGLE ONE OF THEM!
SO FAR IN MY LIFE...
ROAR


MY CLASSMATES THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY, AND TREATED ME LIKE I WAS CURSED!
AND WHENEVER I HAPPEN TO CATCH THE OLYMPICS OR THE WORLD CUP ON TV, JAPAN ALWAYS LOSES.

THEN I HAD MY ENTRANCE CEREMONY AT THIS SCHOOL, WHERE I ENCOUNTERED SOMEONE COOLER THAN I EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE!
BUT!
I PLANNED TO STAY THAT WAY UNTIL I DIED!
SO I JUST GAVE UP ON ROOTING FOR ANYONE!

THAT PERSON WAS CAPTAIN USAMI!
POINT
NO ONE EVER ASKED HER TO CHEER FOR THEM. IN FACT, EVERYONE SEEMS TO WISH SHE'D STOP.
AND YET SHE'S ALWAYS KEPT AT IT, EVEN WHEN SHE WAS ON HER OWN.
WHEN I ASKED HER IF IT WAS FUN TO BE IN THE OUENDAN,
SHE TOLD ME, "OF COURSE IT'S FUN," WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT.
THAT'S THE BOLDNESS THAT I'VE ALWAYS LACKED!
THAT'S WHEN I HAD A THOUGHT.
I'D GIVE THE OUENDAN A SHOT ALONG-SIDE HER.
YAMAH

TODAY,
I HOPE I'LL GET TO CHEER FOR THE WINNING TEAM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
FWIP
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO GIVE THIS EVERY-THING I'VE GOT!
AGH!
Whoa.
NO ONE EVEN CARES!
KANAN
IF WE LOSE, YOU CAN BLAME IT ON ME!
HELL, YOU PROB-ABLY WON'T EVEN BE WRONG!
GOT THAT?!
What's he talking about?
How long is he gonna go on like this?
What the..?
...

I POUR MY HEART OUT IN FRONT OF THEM AND NO ONE'S INTERESTED.
I JUST WANTED TO HELP THEM GET TO KNOW US A LITTLE BETTER...
DAMN IT!
This is taking forever!
God, he's still going on?
START US OFF ALREADY!
YOU'RE JUST WASTING OUR TIME!

DID YOU SERIOUSLY THINK IT WOULD WORK?
YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN YOU'D END UP DISAPPOINTED.
AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED?
THOUGHT YOU'D HELP EVERYONE GET TO KNOW YOU?
THOUGHT YOU'D TRY, HUH?
HUUURGH
GUH!

GOD!
I'M EVEN HARSHER ON MYSELF THAN USUAL IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE!
GUUUU...
IMAMURA...
AAAGH! PLEASE DON'T SAY SOMETHING WEIRD LIKE, "YOU GOT THIS!"
WORK
WORK

1,10 4 CLAP
1,10 4 CLAP
1,10 4 CLAP
1,10 4 CLAP
YAMAHA
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
SHI-BATA?
REO-CHAN,
YOU'RE GETTING TOO INVESTED IN THIS.
Come on, girl...
YOU GOT THIS, IMA-MURA-KUN!

HE'S SO COOL!
HE LOOKED THIS WAY!
OH MY GOD!
HUH?
WHAT THE?
HE HAS FANS?
GASP
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
I GUESS SOME PEOPLE ARE INTO THAT LOOK. IT SORT OF GOES WITH THE OUENDAN THING.
IMAMURA'S ACTUALLY KIND OF CUTE.
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
Huh?!
SINCE WHEN...
...IS HE THIS POPULAR?
MRR
GRRR
RRR
RRH
DAMN IT, IMAMURA!
WE'RE NOT HERE TO LISTEN TO YOU TOOT YOUR OWN HORN!
FWOOSH
GET DOWN FROM THERE! GRAAH!
SUGA?! WAIT!

HUH?
DUM
DA DUM
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHAT'S WITH THE DRUMS?
IS SOMETHING ABOUT TO HAPPEN?
MR. PRINCIPAL!
I CAN ASSURE YOU THEY AREN'T FIGHTING!
HMM...
DA DUM
TAKKA TAK TAK
CHAN-KUMA...
?!
OH!
DA DA DUM
Huh?
What is it, chan-kuma?

NOW, ALLOW ME TO INTRO-DUCE ...
...A VERY SPE-CIAL MAN!
THE ONE WITH THE LOUDEST VOICE, THE SHORTEST TEMPER, AND THE CATCHIEST NAME IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL!
HE'S A FORMER STUDENT OF KABOSU CITY SHIRA-DAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL!
DA-DUM
THE BEAST!
THE CHEER SER-GEANT!
RAKKI SUGA!
BY THE WAY, HIS FAMILY ARE THE MAKERS OF SUGA SUGA DANGO!
Hey, they do make pretty good dango.
Their son has such an odd name.
CHATTER
CHATTER
OKA! CHAN-KUMA!
WHAT THE HELL?
I'M NOT ABOUT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF LIKE SOME...
UHH...
UHH...
ULP...

WOOOOO
RRRR
AAAAH!
I-
MAN OR WOMAN, YOU BETTER WATCH OUT, 'CAUSE I WON'T SHOW ANY MERCY!
I'M NOT GONNA LET ANY OF YOU SLACK ON CHEERING TODAY!
IF WE WIN THIS GAME,
THEN YOU'LL ALL GET HALF OFF ON MY FAMILY'S DANGO!
OOF...
HE'S SCARY.
DON'T TELL ME IT'S THAT KIND OF OUENDAN!
HUH?
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHAT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I LET YOU MAKE ME DO SOME DORKY SELF-INTRODUC-TION!
GOD!

...
Oh, and their dango are so good!
Yay!
It seemed like a good idea.
SORRY! I'M SORRY!
AGH!
DAMN IT, OKA!

WHAT PRESTIGE!
FROM KABOSU CITY KUROKAMI MIDDLE SCHOOL...
Shut up!
SHOVE
WELL, HERE'S THE GUY WITH THE LEAST MOTIVATION AND THE MOST SUPERFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL!
OUR DEAR VICE-CAPTAIN...
...MASAKI OKAMOTO!
Yeeeah!
OKaaaa!
You can do it!
LET'S SEE, UHHH...
WHAT DO YOU SAY AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
COME ON, OKA! GET IT TOGETHER!
PFFFT
BWAHAHAHA...
Yeah...
HE REALLY KNOWS HOW TO GET ON PEOPLE'S GOOD SIDE...

WEEE-EELL...
THIS IS ONLY A PRACTICE GAME FOR THE BASE-BALL CLUB, SO I JUST HOPE EVERYONE CAN RELAX AND HAVE A GOOD TIME.
...BUT I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE ENJOYS CHEERING FOR OUR TEAM.
WE'RE REALLY GOING ALL OUT FOR THIS IN THE OUENDAN,
AND I KNOW USAMI MIGHT SEEM SORT OF PUSHY...
GNRR

THE WEATHER'S NICE, BUT TAKE CARE NOT TO GET HEAT STROKE.
WE HAVE PLENTY OF WATER, SO MAKE SURE YOU DRINK ENOUGH.
AND JUST LET ME KNOW IF YOU START TO FEEL ILL.
I HOPE THOSE OF YOU WHO FEEL UP TO IT WILL CHEER WITH US!
I'M DONE!
BOW
WOOOOO!
TUM
TUM
TUM
TUM
THEY'RE WARMING UP TO US...
NOD NOD
OH! SORRY, I GUESS WE STILL HAVEN'T INTRODUCED CHAN-KUMA.
UHHH...
WHERE'D YOU GO TO MIDDLE SCHOOL?
They're still going?!
WHAT?
WAIT.
OH.
OKAY THEN.

FROM EAST TORONTO MIDDLE SCHOOL SEVEN IN ONTARIO, CANADA...
WHERE?!
DA DUM
HE'S BETTER AT DRUMMING, GROVELING, AND CURSING IN ENGLISH THAN ANY-ONE ELSE IN THE SCHOOL.
THE MAN!
THE DRUM-MER!
TATSU-HIKO OKUMA!
SPARKLE
ONCE THE GAME STARTS, I'LL BE PLAYING THIS BASS DRUM...
YAMAHA
...BUT FOR NOW, I'LL BE PERFORM-ING...
...WITH TRADI-TIONAL TAIKO DRUMS!
RIGHT, CAPTAIN?

WITH THAT SAID,
WE WILL NOW PRESENT OUR NEWEST CHEER.
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
?!
IT WILL BE DIRECTED BY...
...THIS WOMAN!
NAY, THE GALAXY!
SHE'S GOT A HARDER HEAD AND MORE LOVE FOR THE CHEERLEADING THAN ANYONE IN THE SCHOOL,

OUR DEAR,
OUR GLORIOUS CAPTAIN...
...YOSHIKO USAMI!

51. THE GO GET 'EM CHEER

KABOKU'S
ZOMBIE!!
WOOOOO
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
LOOKS LIKE THE CROWD WILL BE CHEERING HARD TODAY!
KABOKOKU'S OUENDAN CAPTAIN IS SUCH A GOOD-LOOKING MAN!

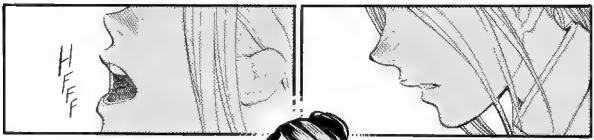
I WONDER IF THEY'RE EVEN GOING TO PRACTICE THEIR CHEERS.
KABOSU MINAMI, ON THE OTHER HAND, DOESN'T LOOK VERY INTO IT.
CHATTER
CHATTER
KABOSU MINAMI'S OUENDAN DOESN'T HAVE VERY MANY MEMBERS, EITHER. THEY JUST LACK THAT OOMPH. I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM, REALLY.
A GIRL LIKE HER DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE COMPARED TO A MAN LIKE OURS.
YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THEIR CAPTAIN, RIGHT?
KABOKOKU OUENDAN
KABOKOKU OUENDAN
...
I MEAN, THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY WAYS TO CHEER, BUT IT'S JUST FUNNY TO SEE THAT GIRL CAPTAIN OF THEIRS TRYING TO BE LIKE US.
LAST TIME I SAW THEM, KABOSU MINAMI'S OUENDAN JUST SEEMED LIKE A RIP-OFF OF OURS.
KNOW WHAT I THINK?
SHE JUST WANTS THE ATTENTION.

WHAT'S THIS NEW CHEER?
WHAT IS SHE GONNA DO?
THEY JUST DON'T TRUST US.
NONE OF THEM DO.
CHATTER
CHATTER
AT LEAST LET ME COMPLAIN!
HEY, YOU SAID YOU WOULD DO THIS, IMAMURA!
GAAAH! THIS IS TOO HARD! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
WE HAD TO STAY UP WELL INTO THE NIGHT FIGURING OUT THIS NEW CHEER...

WHAT? NO WAY. I'D BE EMBARRASSED TO WEAR SOMETHING THAT DUMPY.
CALM DOWN, USAMI
SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF WORK, TOO.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU PUT ON A BLAZER AND JOIN US?
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO!
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO LEARN IT!
I DON'T GET IT, EITHER!
YOU'D BETTER BE READY FOR IT.
ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING HOW BAD OUR REPUTATION HAS GOTTEN UP TO THIS POINT, WE'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO GET MADE FUN OF.
THIS IS EXACTLY HOW PEOPLE WILL REACT AT THE PRACTICE GAME.
CHATTER
CHATTER
COME ON, CAPTAIN!
WE CAN DO THIS!
RIGHT ...
THIS IS IT. OUR NEW WAY OF CHEERING.
WE SPENT EVERY MINUTE WE HAD WORKING ON IT.

OSU!
TAKE YOUR POSITIONS!
IMAMURA!
OKA!
SUGA!
FWISH
ISH
ドドドDUM

FINALLY.
THEY'RE DOING IT.
SHOOM


HFFF

FOR THE NEXT THREE MINUTES, WE WILL DANCE!
WE ARE KABOSU MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL'S OUENDAN.

AND WE WANT ALL OF YOU...
...TO DANCE WITH US!

...
...TO DANCE ?
THEY WANT US ...
HUH?
WHAT ?
...

BUT I'VE MADE IT THIS FAR, HAVING RESOLVED THAT I WOULD CHEER HARDER THAN OUR ATHLETES PLAYED.
...WE'VE NEVER WON A GAME THAT I CHEERED AT!
TO THIS VERY DAY...
IT'S TRUE.
IF WE DON'T, THEN THE OUENDAN HAS NO PURPOSE.
STILL, WE HAVE TO WIN!
I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY HERE.
I-
...THEN I-
SHOULD WE HAPPEN TO LOSE TODAY'S PRACTICE GAME...
KAYAN

BE BOLD AND ASSERTIVE!
GASP
CAPTAIN!
STAY IN CHARACTER!
CHATTER
ISN'T SHE GETTING A LITTLE MELODRAMATIC?
SINCE WHEN IS CAPTAIN USAMI SO CYNICAL?
CHATTER

I MEAN, SHE GENUINELY FELL APART AND DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL BEFORE THIS DO-OVER.
GIGI
YOU CAN'T REALLY CALL HER CYNICAL.

...AND IF I HADN'T TOLD HER ABOUT IT, THEN WE WOULD HAVE NEVER THOUGHT OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
IF I HADN'T GONE BACK AND FOUND OUT WHAT BECAME OF THAT CAPTAIN IN THE OTHER WORLD...

SHWIIING
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO ENTRUST THE DUTY OF CARRYING IT ON TO YOU FIRST- AND SECOND-YEARS!
LET'S SAY THIS TURNS OUT TO BE OUR LAST PERFORMANCE AS THE OUENDAN!

IF YOU CAN LEARN THIS THREE-MINUTE DANCE...
...THEN EVEN YOU CAN BE PART OF THE OUEN-DAN!
YOU'RE WEL-COME!
LET'S DO IT, CHAN-KUMA!
OKAY!!
DA DUM

THIS IS THE GO GET 'EM CHEER!
DA DUM
ドン
ドン
DUM
ドン
DUM
ALTER-NATE HANDS AS YOU PUNCH THE AIR!
ドン
DUM
ドン
TAK
TAKKA
TAK

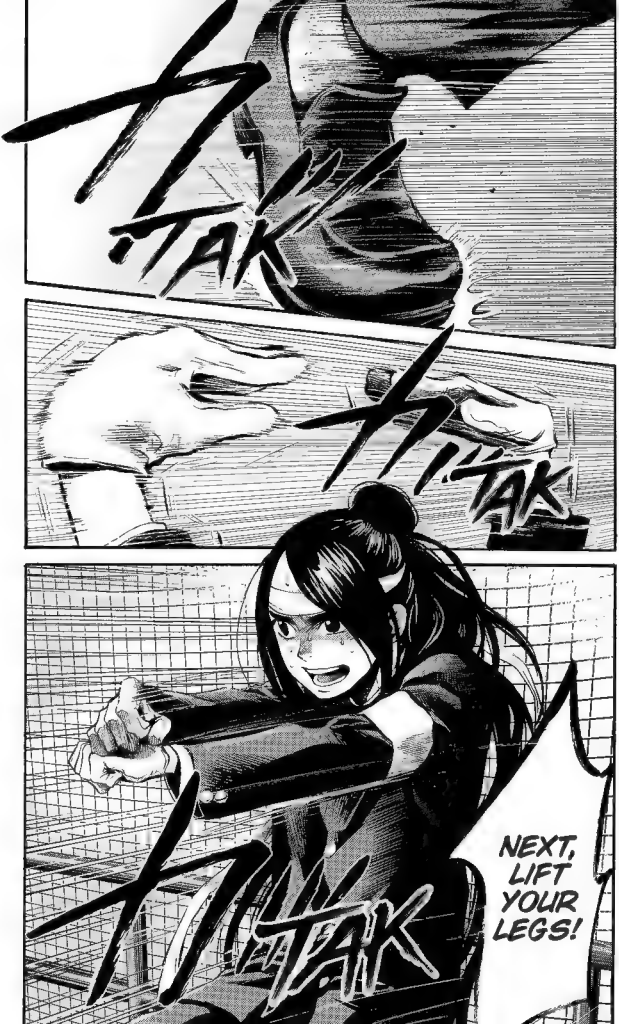
OSU!
DA DUM
DUM
OSU!
OSU!
DUM
GLNT
WHAT DO WE DO?
HUH?
DA DUM
DUM
TAKA TAKA
L-like this?
Huh?
KANAN
KANAN
THE GIRLS ARE DOING IT, SO WHY ARE YOU BOYS SLACKING?
FSSH
MAKE THOSE PUNCHES SNAPPIER!

ISSH
ISSH
NEXT, BEND BACK-WARDS ...
...AND PUNCH!
DADUM
DADUM
WE CAN'T DO THAT!
COME ON!
DANCE WITH US, KITAJI! MR. PRIN-CIPAL!
OH!
R-RIGHT ...
...
TAKKA TAK TAK
DUM
DA DUM
DA DUM
TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE

HEY!
USAMI-SAN!
GRAB
WHAT THE HELL?!
YOUR NEW WAY OF CHEERING IS JUST TO MAKE EVERYONE DO THE SAME OLD CHEERS WITH YOU?!
KANA
JUST WATCH UNTIL THE END.
IF YOU'RE HOPING FOR THE OUENDAN TO FALL APART,
THEN YOU SHOULD DANCE WITH US AND HAVE A GOOD TIME OF IT.
?!
LOOK!
MAN

THEY'RE ALL IN SYNC!
I GUESS THE OUEN-DAN'S ... PRETTY COOL.
WHEN DID THEY GET LIKE THIS, ANYWAY?
トドロロロ

52. VICTORY DANCE!


TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
NEXT, LIFT YOUR LEGS!

DUM
KANAN
ONE AFTER THE OTHER!
DA DUM
RIGHT! LEFT! RIGHT! LEFT!
AS HIGH AS YOU CAN!
KEEP AT IT FOR ONE MORE MINUTE!
WE'VE DONE ENOUGH, RIGHT?
I'M TIRED.
WHY DO WE HAVE TO DANCE LIKE THIS?
FLINCH
HEY NOW!
WE STILL HAVEN'T DONE THE BIG FINISH!
YOINK

DUM
OH, KIN-CHAN ...
YOU'RE ALREADY WORN OUT, HUH?
DA-DUM
C-C-
COME ON...
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
LOUDER ...
WELL, HOW ARE WE SUP-POSED TO KEEP UP WITH THE QUENDAN?
NO ONE'S REALLY IN SYNC.

BUT YOU CAN'T REALLY CALL WHAT THAT BLOND BOY IS DOING DANCING, AND I DON'T HEAR HIM AT ALL. IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'S TRYING VERY HARD.
I WONDER WHOSE SON HE IS?
THE THIRD-YEARS IN FRONT ARE MANAGING WELL ENOUGH.
DA-DUM

...
TAKKA TAK TAK
DADUM
I DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM FROM MY CHILD'S MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WHO KNOWS?
THINK HE'S IN A GANG? HIS MOM MUST BE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE.
U-UMM...

HEH!
ONLY THEIR OUENDAN IS IN SYNC.
OUR LEADER-SHIP IS CLEARLY SUPERIOR.
NONE OF THEM ARE EVEN CLOSE TO AS GOOD AS YOU, CAPTAIN IWASAKI.
...
...
SO...
...IS THIS HOW YOU WANTED TO CHEER?
ALL RIGHT. IT'S FINALLY TIME!
ゴクッ
NOD

DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
WE'RE FINISH-ING...
...WITH OUR VICTORY DANCE!
EVERY-ONE, TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES AND SOCKS!

TAKE OUR SHOES OFF?
WHAT?
CHATTER
?!

COME ON!
HURRY UP AND GET BARE-FOOT!
OTHER-WISE, HOW ARE YOU GONNA DANCE?
IF YOU WON'T TAKE YOUR SHOES AND SOCKS OFF YOURSELF, THEN I'M GONNA GO TAKE THEM OFF FOR YOU! HURRY UP!
EEP!
HEY, YOU GIRLS!
SHWICK
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
What was that for? ♡
Good...
ペタッ
AH!
THE GROUND'S COLD!

OSU!
DO THE CUTEST LITTLE DANCE YOU CAN!
OKAY!
GOOD TO GO!
SORRY, MR. PRINCIPAL!
BUT PLEASE JOIN US!
...
WHAT ARE THEY PLANNING?
DA DA DA
DA
DA
DADUM

TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
DO CUTE LITTLE HOPS!
WHAT?
HUH?
DUM
TMP
DO CUTE LITTLE SCOOPS!
DUM
DUM
TMP
AND SCOOP!
SCOOP!
TMP
DUM

CUTE LITTLE TWIRLS!
TWIRL
CUTE LITTLE CLAPS!
CLAP
DUM DUM DUM DUM

AS CUTE AS YOU CAN!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CUTER!
AND FOR THE GRAND FINALE ...

BLOW A CUTE LITTLE KISS!
DA
DUM
TAK
TAK

WHAT THE HELL ?!
WHOOOA!
NO WAY!
I CAN'T!
THAT'S WAY TOO EMBARRASSING!
CHATTER
CHATTER
I GUESS IT DIDN'T WORK ...
SHUT UP!
ROAR
WE'RE GONNA KEEP DANCING TILL WE WIN!
I SAID QUIET!
THE QUENDAN'S NO GOOD.
I TOLD YOU.
SEE?
HEH HEH HEH

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
DO THE VICTORY DANCE!
YOU'VE GOTTA DO THAT AGAIN!
OUR CLUBMATES BARELY DANCED! YOU GUYS BETTER LEARN THIS!
CAPTAIN!
WHAT EVEN WAS THAT?!
HAHAHAHA
DO IT AGAIN!
IT WAS SO DORKY!
HAHAHAHA...
THAT WAS HILARIOUS!
HAHAHA
GOD, IMAMURA!
THAT WAS GREAT!
DO IT AGAIN! AGAIN!
HAHA

A-
ALL RIGHT!
ONE MORE TIME!
SU-ZUKI ...
I WANNA DO A CUTE LITTLE DANCE, TOO!
TWIP
DA DUM
HUH...
ME, TOO!
I'M IN!
...I THINK...
...I FEEL...
...A BREEZE.

DO A CUTE LITTLE DANCE!
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
ARE YOU THAT DESPERATE FOR MY ATTENTION?
WHAT A SHAMELESS USE OF SEX APPEAL.
DUM
...

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 6...

This is the AFTERWORD!

The Kabosu Minami ouendan that appears ain Again!! is a combination of one from a high school in Kazo City, Saitama, and the one at my old high school in Sasebo City, Nagasaki, so I set the story in the fictional city of Kabosu.

This ouendan isn't necessarily a faithful representation of either of those, though.

Apparently, my alma mater's ouendan only got one new member this year, so no one's sure if they'll be able to keep it alive... I hope they get new members!

2012.6.

Mitsurou Kubo, June 2012
My Agent: Hiromi Sakitani

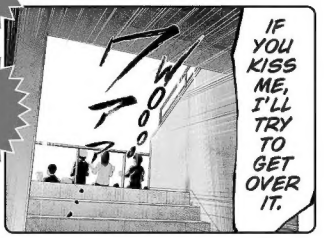
My Assistants: Shunsuke Ono, Youko Mikuni, Hiromu Kitano, Shiori Mizoguchi, Koushi Tezuka, Rana Satou, Kouhei Mihara...
Eshitaka, Tsunetaka

IN VOLUME 6...
PEOPLE ARE GETTING INTO THE OUENDAN!!!
DO A CUTE LITTLE TWIRL!
MEANWHILE...
ONE GIRL HAS HER EYE ON KINICHIRO...
PHEW
ANOTHER SEES THIS, AND SUF-FERS!
BRP BRP
ボロ ボロ...

THIS LOVE BOMB ...

...IS GONNA BLOW!

SHE CAN'T HOLD IT IN ANY LONG-ER...



Again!! 7巻

VOLUME 6 COMING SOON!

!!!

Again!! 5

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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